コミック

新田次郎原作　横山光輝

武田信玄

⑥霧の巻

歴史コミック53

新田次郎

武田信玄

6

横山光輝

講談社
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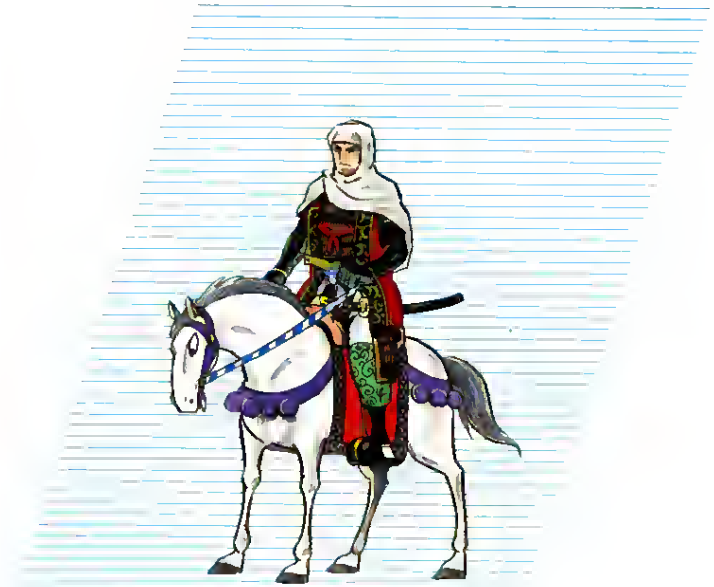

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永禄三年(一五六〇年)、二万の大軍を率い上洛の途についた駿遠三の太守今川義元は、わずか五千の織田勢の奇襲にあい桶狭間で討たれる。その陰には間者山本勘助を使った信玄の巧妙な誘導策があった。義元亡き後、関東の覇権を握るべく、新たに管領職についた上杉政虎(長尾景虎)は小田原へむかうが、これを好機とする信玄もまた川中島に海津城を築く。戦機は熟した。永禄四年、両雄は今度こそ雌雄を決すべく川中島へ軍を進める。戦場をおおう霧は、はたしてどちらに味方する……?

武田信玄花押

TAKEDA SHINGEN

武田信玄

VOLUME 6: THE MIST

BY
YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

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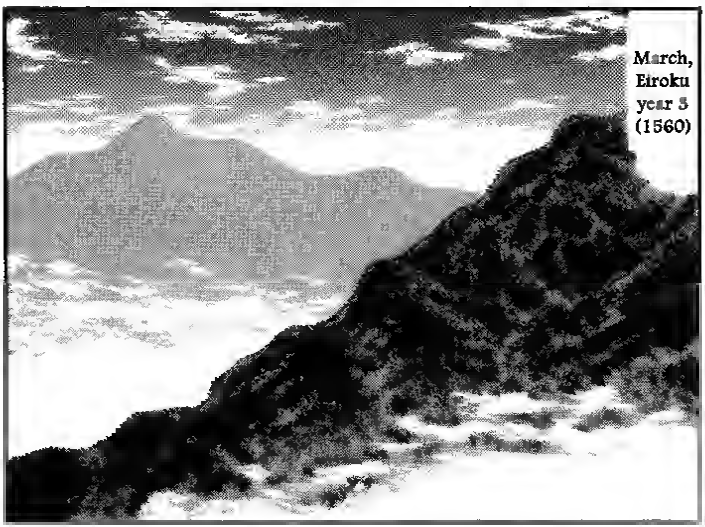
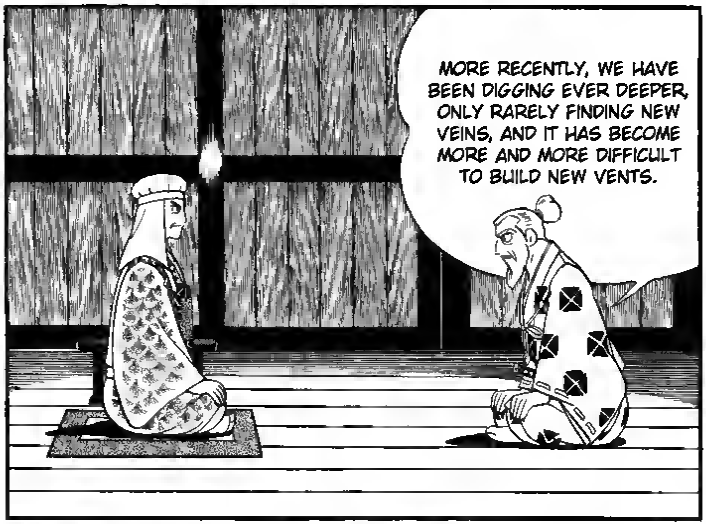
Chapter 45:
Gold Mines and the Sea



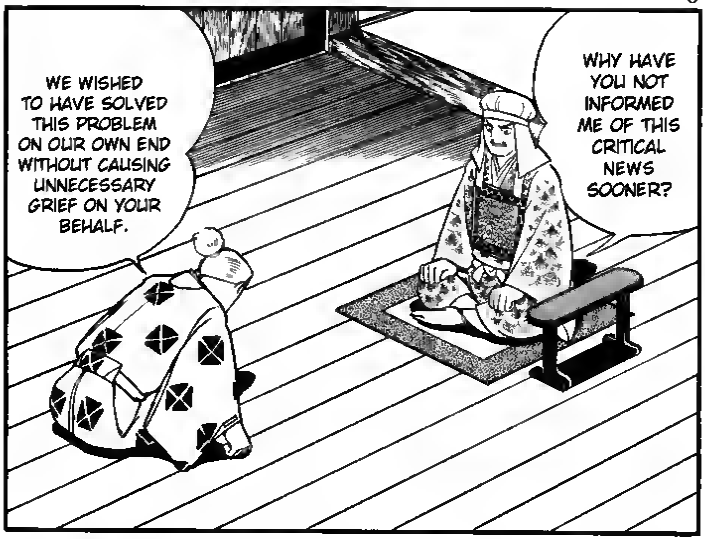
IMAI HYOBU, I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE FOR ONE REASON ALONE. I WISH TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF KUROKAWA GOLD MINE.
YES, MY LORD.

WHEN WE BEGAN THE EXCAVATION, THERE WAS SO MUCH GOLD WE COULD NOT ESTIMATE THE QUANTITY.
BUT AFTER EXCAVATING FOR AT LEAST A DECADE, WE FINALLY HAVE A REALISTIC FIGURE ON THE QUANTITY OF KUROKAWA GOLD MINE.


MORE RECENTLY, WE HAVE BEEN DIGGING EVER DEEPER, ONLY RARELY FINDING NEW VEINS, AND IT HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO BUILD NEW VENTS.

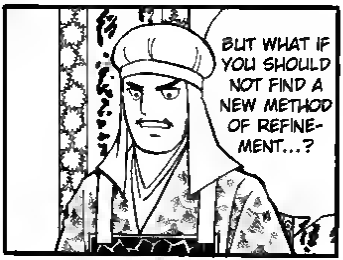
HALVED !?

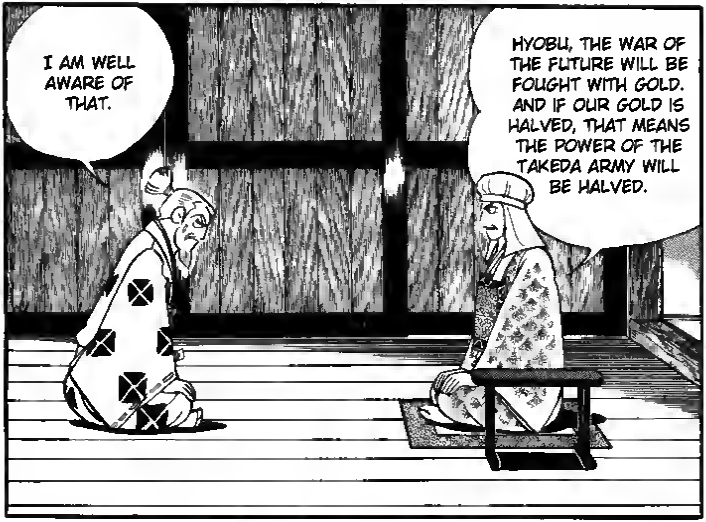
AT THIS RATE, OUR GOLD OUTPUT WILL BE HALVED IN ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

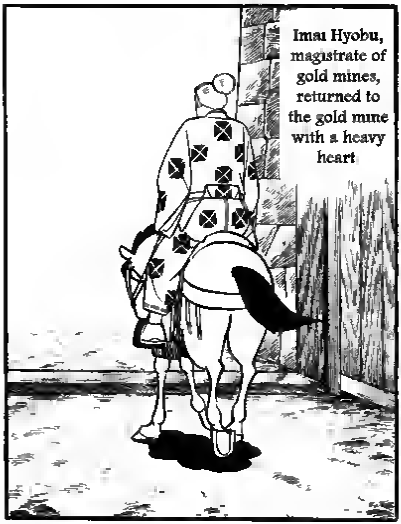

WE WISHED TO HAVE SOLVED THIS PROBLEM ON OUR OWN END WITHOUT CAUSING UNNECESSARY GRIEF ON YOUR BEHALF.
WHY HAVE YOU NOT INFORMED ME OF THIS CRITICAL NEWS SOONER?

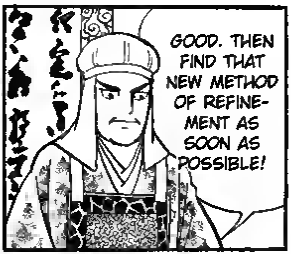
WE COULD EXCAVATE GOLD WITHOUT ANY WASTE IF WE COULD FIND A NEW METHOD OF REFINEMENT, AND WE HAVE BEEN DELIBERATING DAY AND NIGHT TO FIND THAT METHOD.

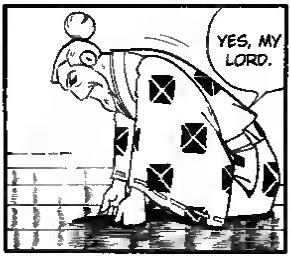
THEN OUR GOLD OUTPUT WILL BE HALVED.

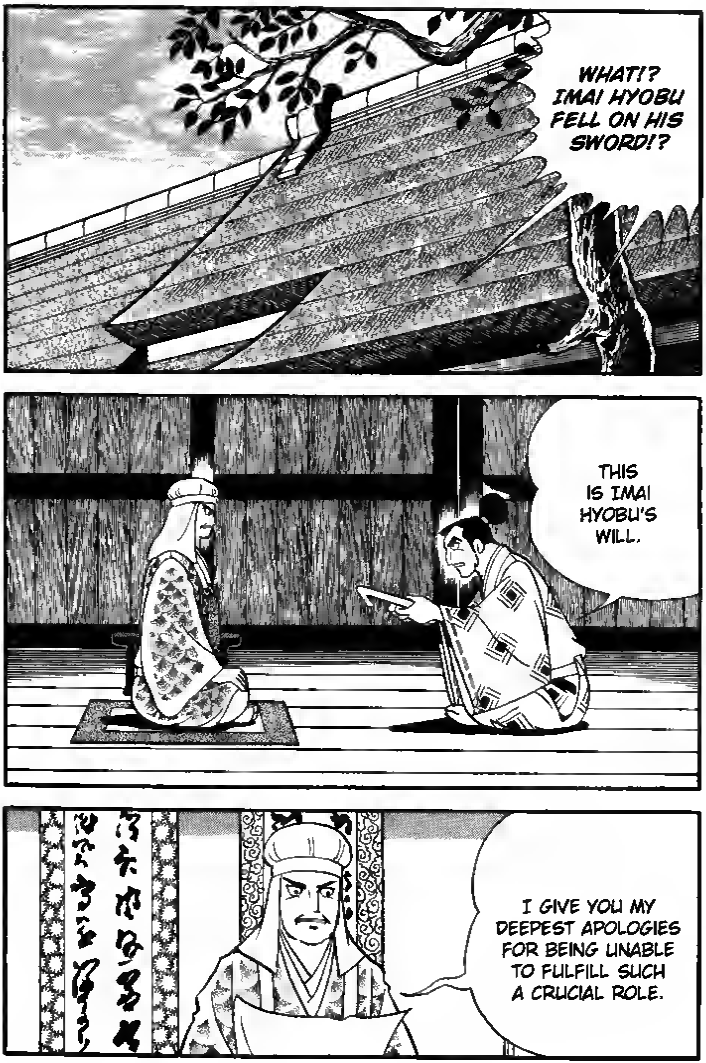

BUT WHAT IF YOU SHOULD NOT FIND A NEW METHOD OF REFINE-MENT...?

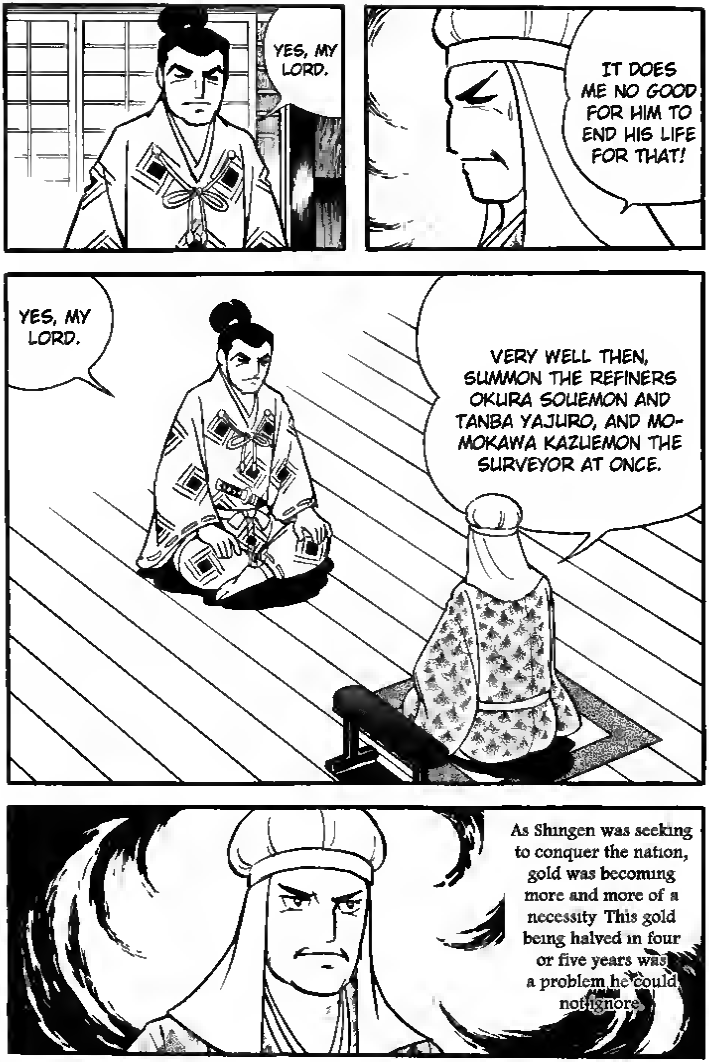

I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT.
HYOBU, THE WAR OF THE FUTURE WILL BE FOUGHT WITH GOLD. AND IF OUR GOLD IS HALVED, THAT MEANS THE POWER OF THE TAKEDA ARMY WILL BE HALVED.

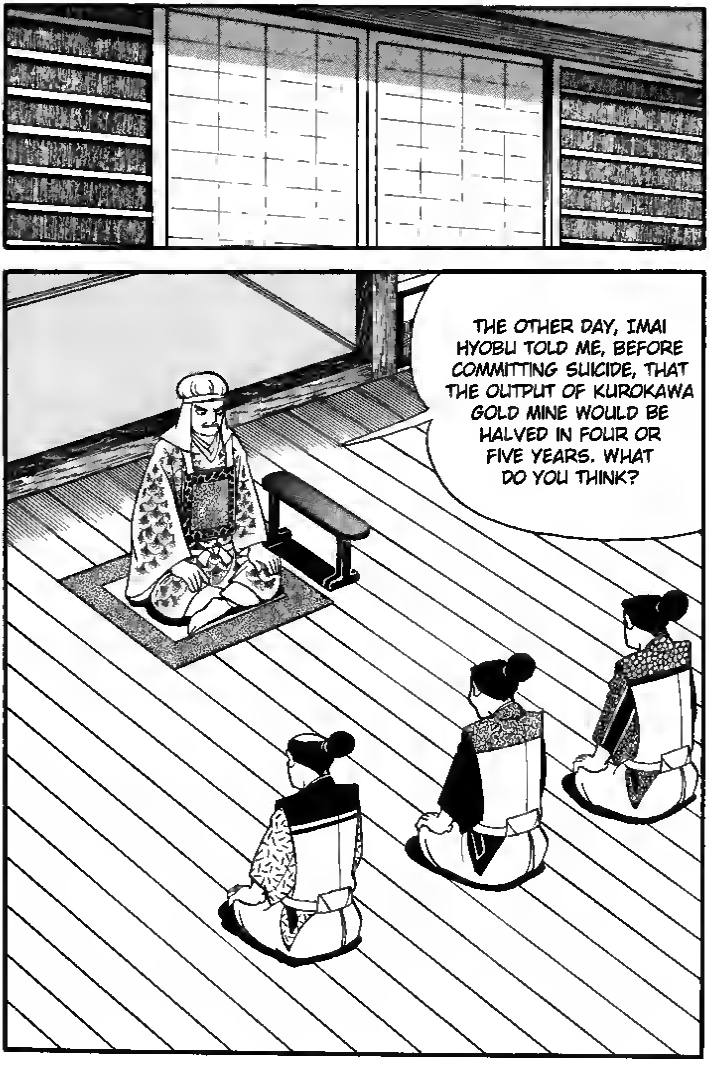

Imai Hyobu, magistrate of gold mines, returned to the gold mine with a heavy heart


GOOD. THEN FIND THAT NEW METHOD OF REFINEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!


YES, MY LORD.


WHAT!? IMAI HYOBU FELL ON HIS SWORD!?
THIS IS IMAI HYOBU'S WILL.
I GIVE YOU MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR BEING UNABLE TO FULFILL SUCH A CRUCIAL ROLE.

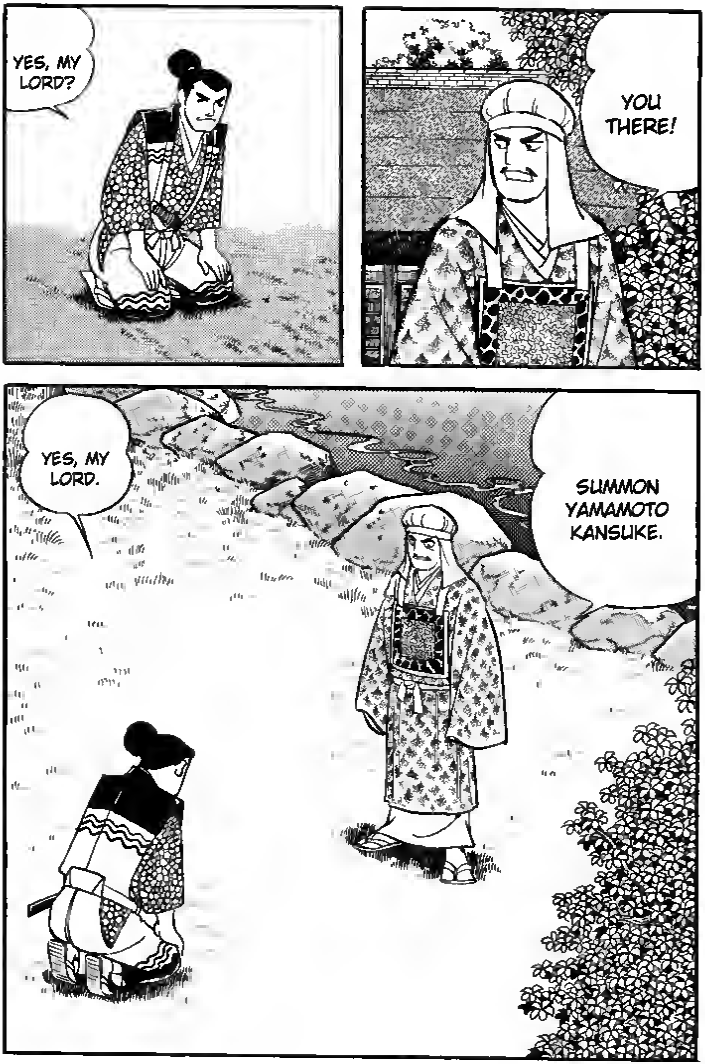

YES, MY LORD.
IT DOES ME NO GOOD FOR HIM TO END HIS LIFE FOR THAT!
YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL THEN, SUMMON THE REFINERS OKURA SOUEMON AND TANBA YAJURO, AND MOMOKAWA KAZUEMON THE SURVEYOR AT ONCE.
As Shingen was seeking to conquer the nation, gold was becoming more and more of a necessity. This gold being halved in four or five years was a problem he could not ignore.

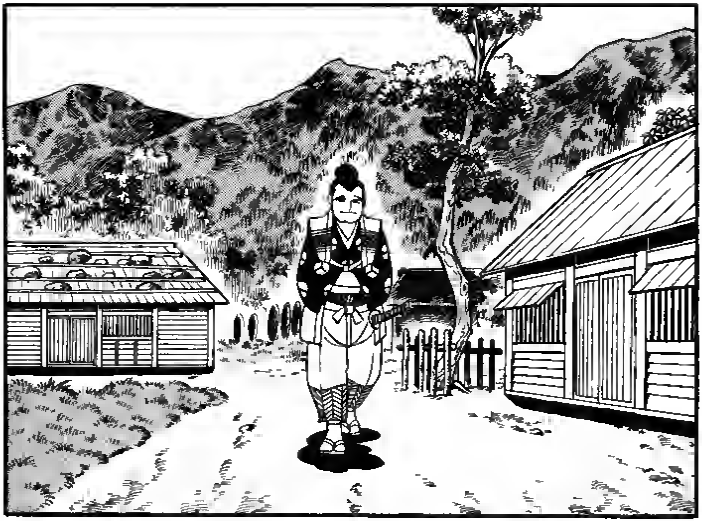

THE OTHER DAY, IMAI HYOBU TOLD ME, BEFORE COMMITTING SUICIDE, THAT THE OUTPUT OF KUROKAWA GOLD MINE WOULD BE HALVED IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE MUST FIND A NEW MINE AND ADOPT A FOREIGN REFINEMENT METHOD.
WHAT MUST WE DO TO CONTINUE ACQUIRING THE GOLD WE ARE PRODUCING NOW?
YES, MY LORD. THE MAGISTRATE WAS RIGHT. AFTER A DECADE OF EXCAVATING, THE GOLD HAS BEEN DECLINING.
THE GREATEST GOLD MINE IN THE AREA IS ABE GOLD MINE OF SURUGA. I HAVE BEEN TO UMEGASHIMA ONCE MYSELF, SO I KNOW THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH GOLD THAT CAN BE MINED FROM IT.
BUT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO LEARN A FOREIGN REFINEMENT METHOD.
ABE GOLD MINE OF SURUGA...

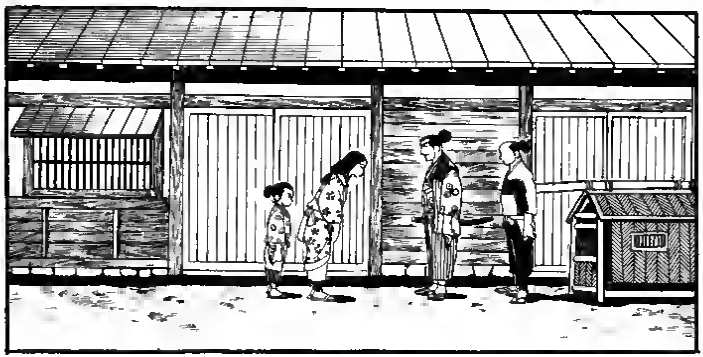
WITH YOUR LEAVE, I WOULD LIKE MY SON TOJURO (LATER OKUBO NAGAYASU) TO SERVE THAT ROLE.
BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN LEARN IT IF WE SEND SOMEONE TO KYUSHU AND HAVE THEM APPROACH FOREIGNERS THERE.
YES, MY LORD. BUT HE IS FAMILIAR WITH REFINEMENT, AND HAS QUITE THE KNACK FOR IT.
YOUR SON TOJURO IS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, IS HE NOT?
YES, MY LORD!
AND I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS.
GOOD. I UNDERSTAND. I GIVE TOJURO MY LEAVE TO GO TO KYUSHU.

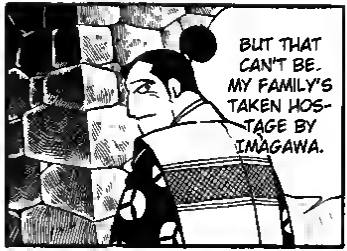
COMPARED TO THAT, KUROKAWA GOLD MINE IS SHOWING SIGNS OF DECLINE. ONCE KUROKAWA GOLD MINE RUNS OUT OF GOLD, THE TAKEDA WILL BE DONE FOR. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
ABE GOLD MINE IS IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S TREASURY. IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO CAN ONLY REIGN SUPREME OVER THE NATION WITH (UJI) GOLD MINE AND ABE GOLD MINE...

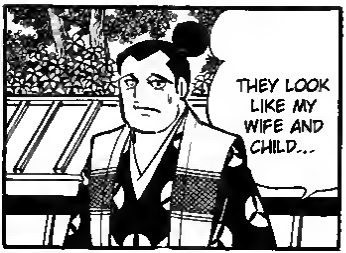

YES, MY LORD?
YOU THERE!
YES, MY LORD.
SUMMON YAMAMOTO KANSUKE.

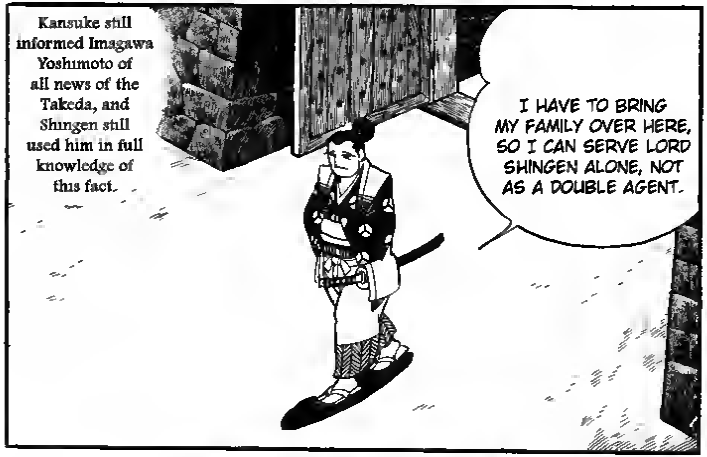


HUH?



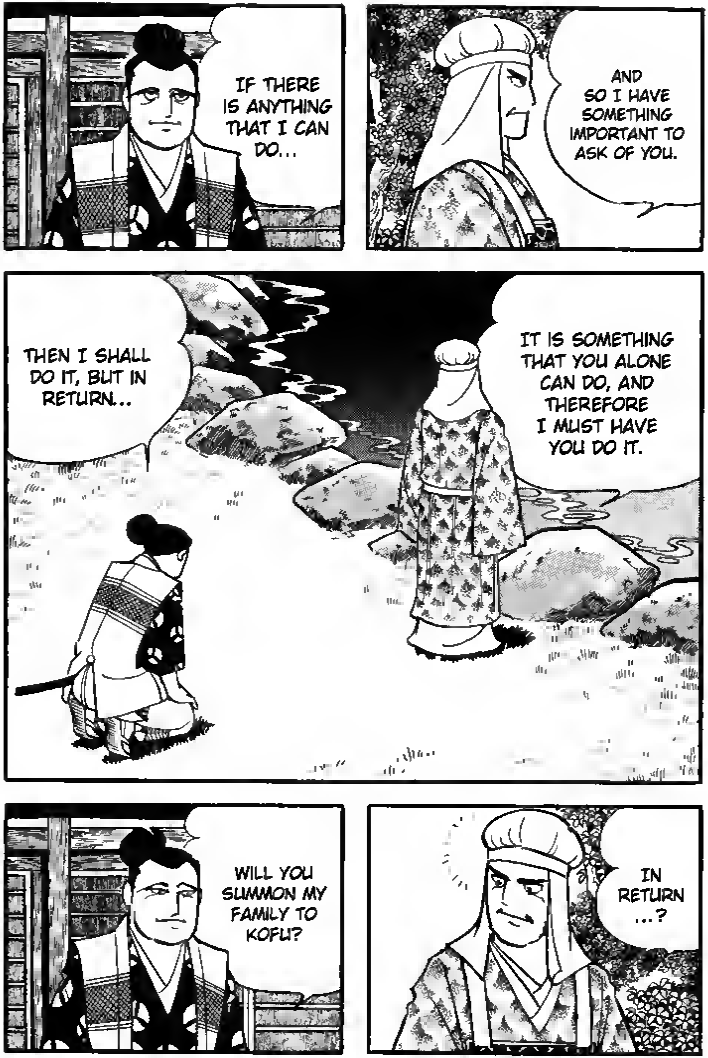

BUT THAT CAN'T BE. MY FAMILY'S TAKEN HOSTAGE BY IMAGAWA.

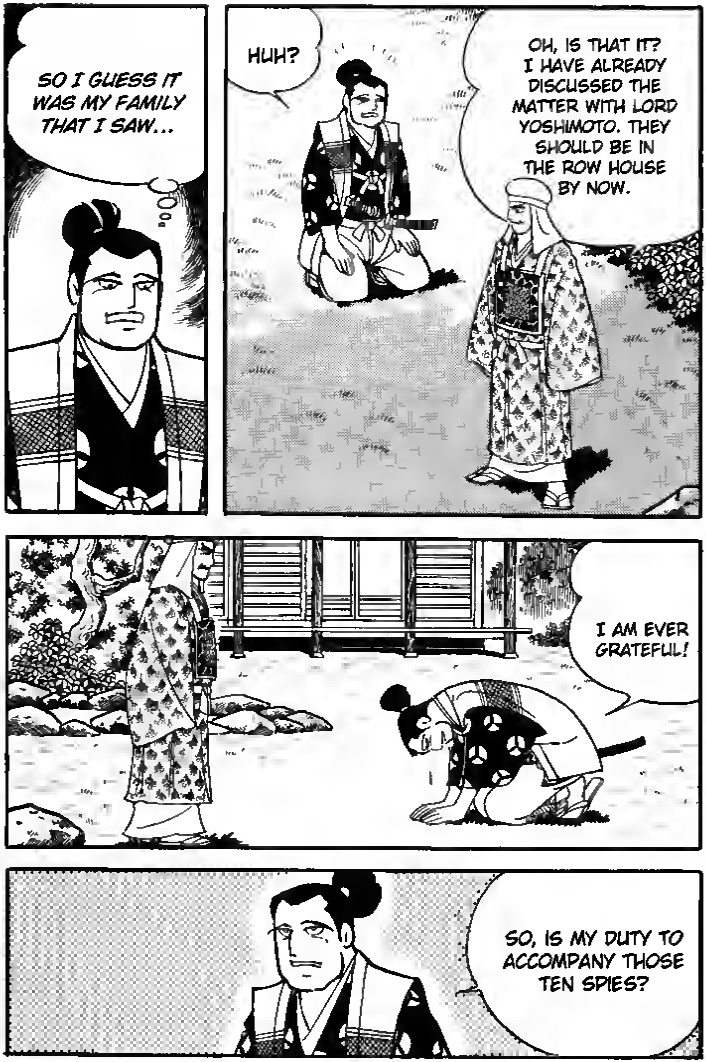

THEY LOOK LIKE MY WIFE AND CHILD...


Kansuke still informed Imagawa Yoshimoto of all news of the Takeda, and Shingen still used him in full knowledge of this fact.
I HAVE TO BRING MY FAMILY OVER HERE, SO I CAN SERVE LORD SHINGEN ALONE, NOT AS A DOUBLE AGENT.

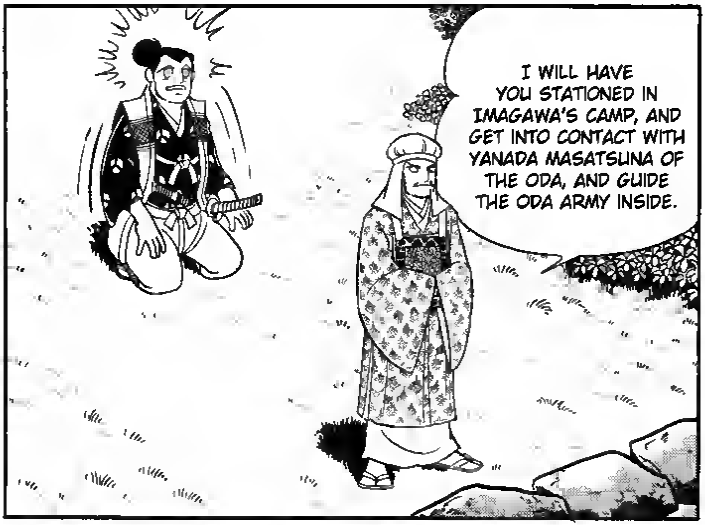
Kansuke wanted to serve one lord alone, and he wanted to serve Shingen if he had the choice.
Kansuke knew better than anyone else that he could not be fully trusted by Shingen or Yoshimoto so long as he was a double agent.

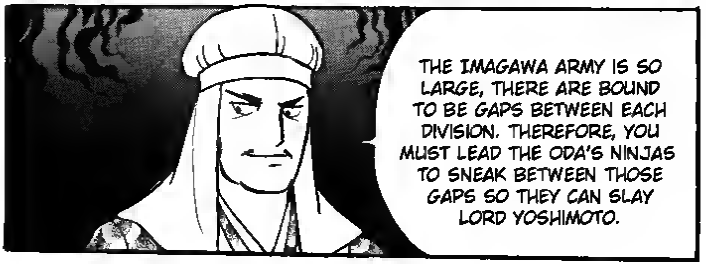
COME CLOSER, KANSUKE.
YOU REQUESTED TO SEE ME, MY LORD?
THE IMAGAWA ARMY NUMBERS TWENTY THOUSAND... I DOUBT HE WOULD BE PLEASED WITH A MERE TWO OR THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS.
THE OTHER DAY, A MESSENGER FROM LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO CAME, REQUESTING SOME REINFORCEMENTS AS HE IS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS WAY TO THE CAPITAL.
THUS, I HAVE DECIDED TO LEND HIM TEN EMINENT SPIES. I AM SURE THAT THIS WILL BE OF FAR MORE USE TO LORD IMAGAWA...


IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO...
AND SO I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ASK OF YOU.
THEN I SHALL DO IT, BUT IN RETURN...
IT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU ALONE CAN DO, AND THEREFORE I MUST HAVE YOU DO IT.
WILL YOU SUMMON MY FAMILY TO KOFU?
IN RETURN ...?


SO I GUESS IT WAS MY FAMILY THAT I SAW...
HUH?
OH, IS THAT IT? I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH LORD YOSHIMOTO. THEY SHOULD BE IN THE ROW HOUSE BY NOW.
I AM EVER GRATEFUL!
SO, IS MY DUTY TO ACCOMPANY THOSE TEN SPIES?

I WOULD NOT REQUIRE YOU FOR SUCH A SIMPLE TASK AS THAT.

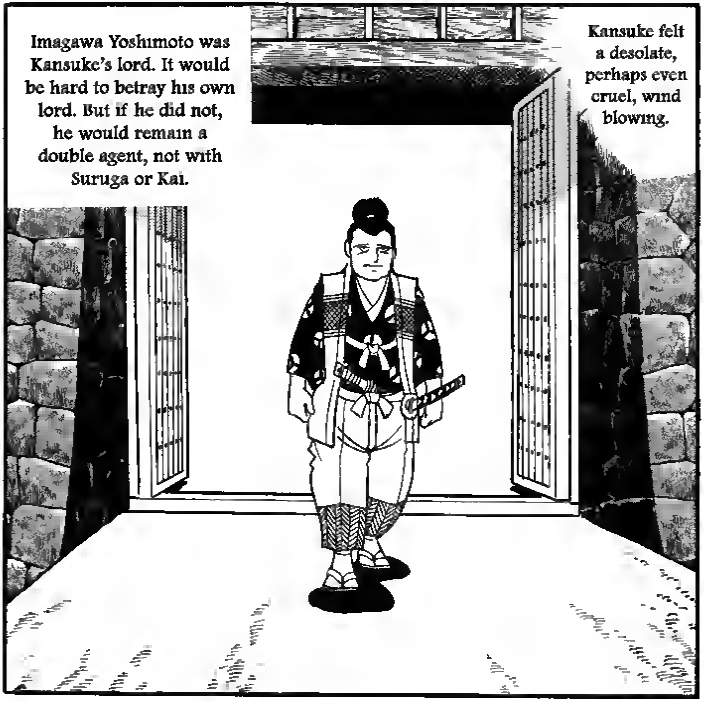

I WILL HAVE YOU STATIONED IN IMAGAWA'S CAMP, AND GET INTO CONTACT WITH YANADA MASATSUNA OF THE ODA, AND GUIDE THE ODA ARMY INSIDE.

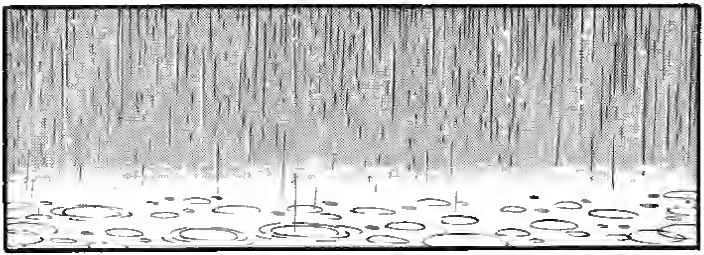

THE IMAGAWA ARMY IS SO LARGE, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE GAPS BETWEEN EACH DIVISION. THEREFORE, YOU MUST LEAD THE ODA'S NINJAS TO SNEAK BETWEEN THOSE GAPS SO THEY CAN SLAY LORD YOSHIMOTO.

THIS WILL BE A GREAT TASK. PROBABLY THE GREATEST TASK I WILL GIVE YOU IN MY LIFE
WHETHER I FALL AS MERELY THE GUARDIAN OF KAI AND SHINANO, OR GO ON TO COMMAND THE NATION, DEPENDS ON YOUR SUCCESS.

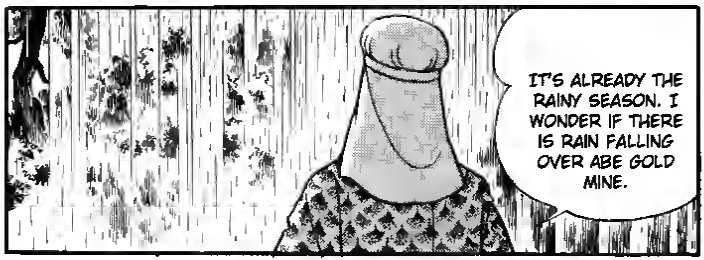
GOOD. HEAD FOR SURUGA AT ONCE.

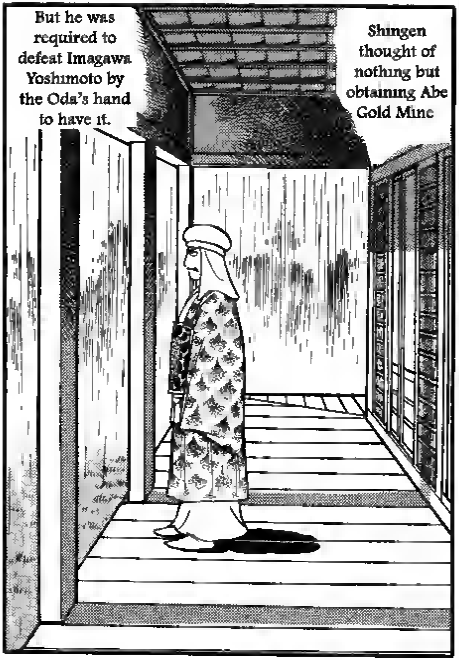
UNDERSTOOD. I, KANSUKE, WILL SACRIFICE MYSELF IF IT WILL RESULT IN SUCCESS.


Imagawa Yoshimoto was Kansuke's lord. It would be hard to betray his own lord. But if he did not, he would remain a double agent, not with Suruga or Kai.
Kansuke felt a desolate, perhaps even cruel, wind blowing.



HAS KANSUKE DEPARTED FOR SURUGA?
YES, MY LORD. HE LEFT THIS MORNING.


IT'S ALREADY THE RAINY SEASON. I WONDER IF THERE IS RAIN FALLING OVER ABE GOLD MINE.


But he was required to defeat Imagawa Yoshimoto by the Oda's hand to have it.
Shingen thought of nothing but obtaining Abe Gold Mine

He would then claim Suruga for his own, and Abe Gold Mine with it. Then he would use this gold mine to move west.

If Yoshimoto were defeated, it would be difficult for his successor, Imagawa Ujizane, to maintain the province of Suruga due to his feeblemindedness.

?
HUH ...?
AND SURUGA HAS THE SEA.
ARE YOU THINKING...
MY LORD, SURUGA INDEED HAS A GOLD MINE AND THE SEA!
OHHH!
AH!
YES, MY LORD.
SPEAK NOT A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE.

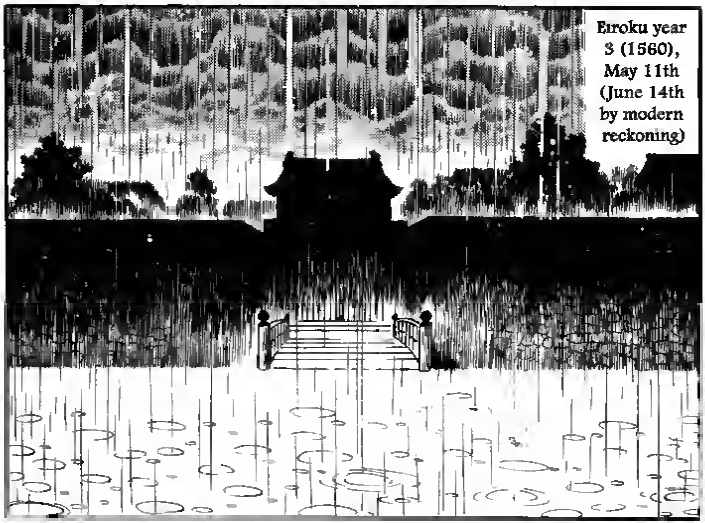
Obu Saburobe and Baba Minbu seemed to know what Shingen was thinking
YES, MY LORD.
THE PATH SEEMS SHORT, BUT IS FAR KEEP YOURSELVES PREPARED.
The rain brought a mist upon the mountains of Kai.

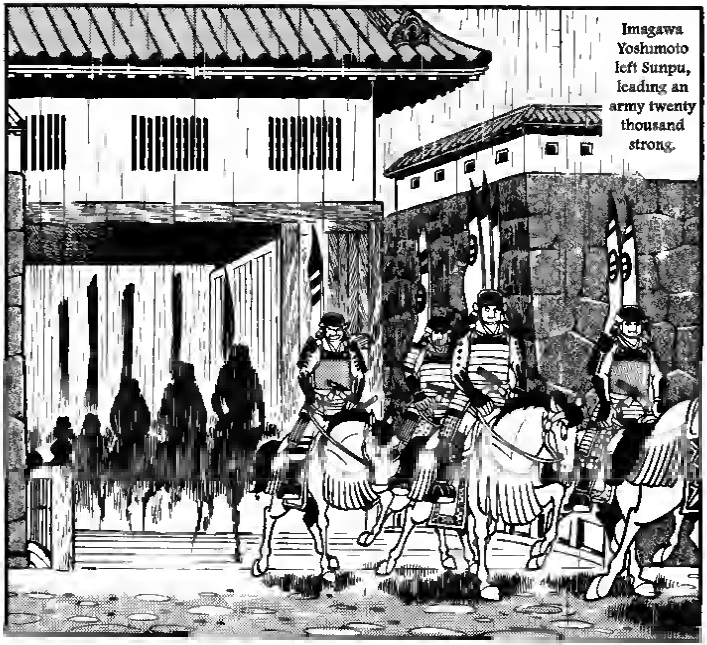
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

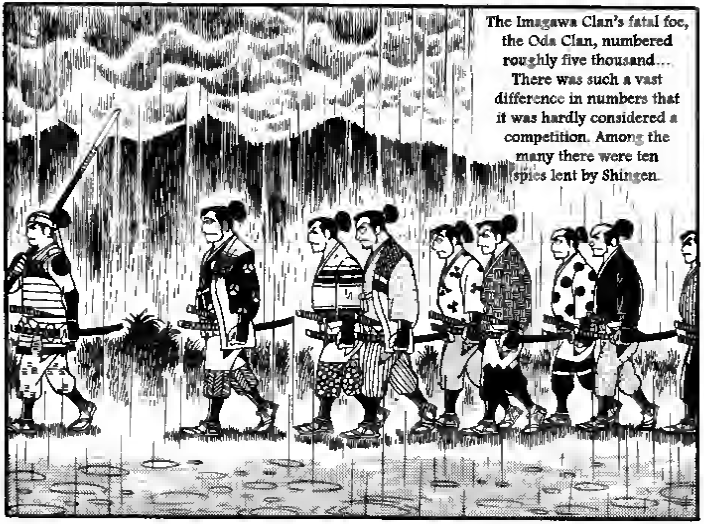
CHAPTER 45

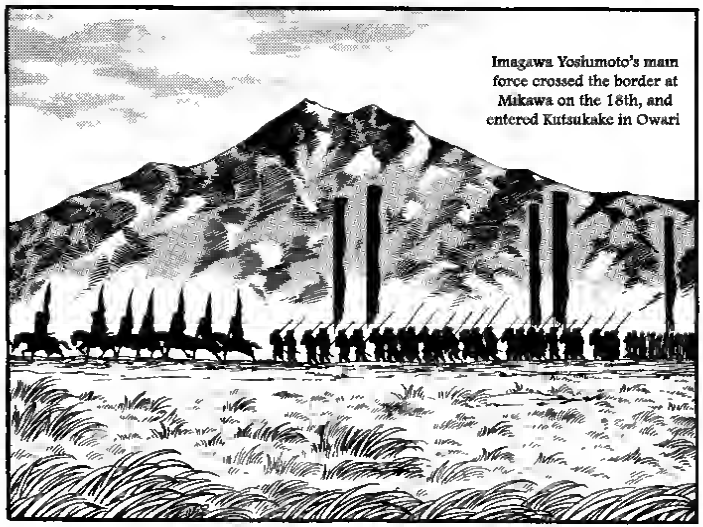
Chapter 46:
The Traitorous Messenger

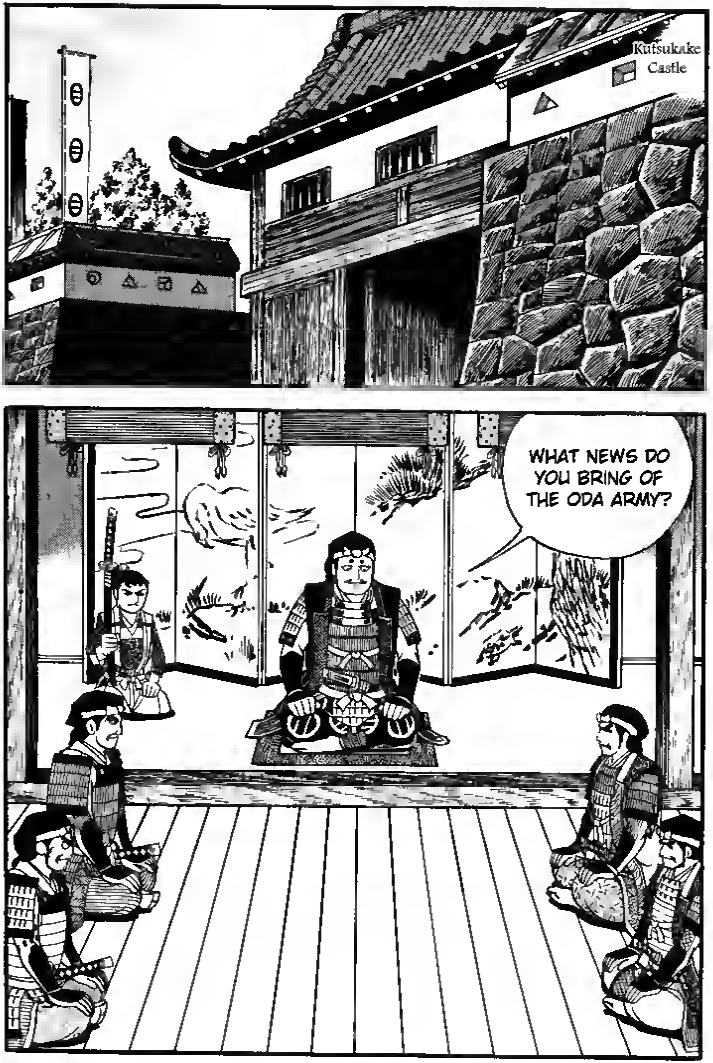


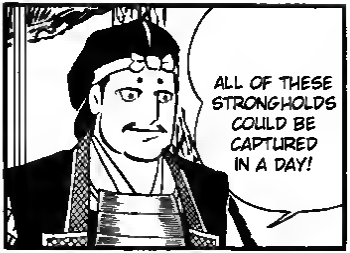

Imagawa Yoshimoto left Sunpu, leading an army twenty thousand strong.

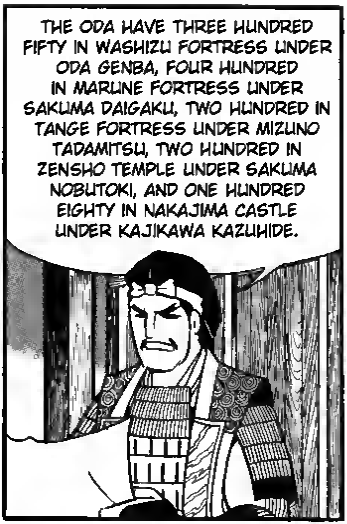
Yoshimoto was too rotund to ride a horse, so he was carried by palanquin

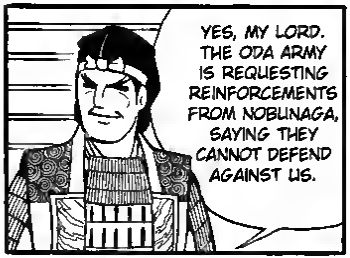

The Imagawa Clan's fatal foe, the Oda Clan, numbered roughly five thousand.... There was such a vast difference in numbers that it was hardly considered a competition. Among the many there were ten spies lent by Shingen.

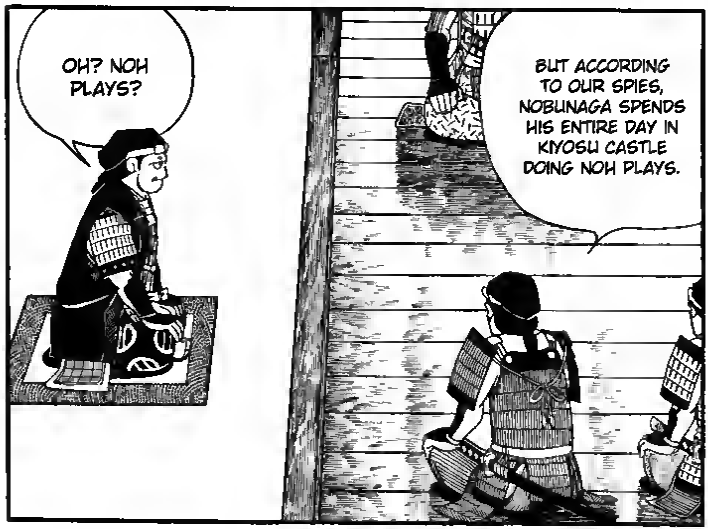

Imagawa Yoshimoto's main force crossed the border at Mikawa on the 18th, and entered Kutsukake in Owari


Kutsukake
Castle
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING OF THE ODA ARMY?

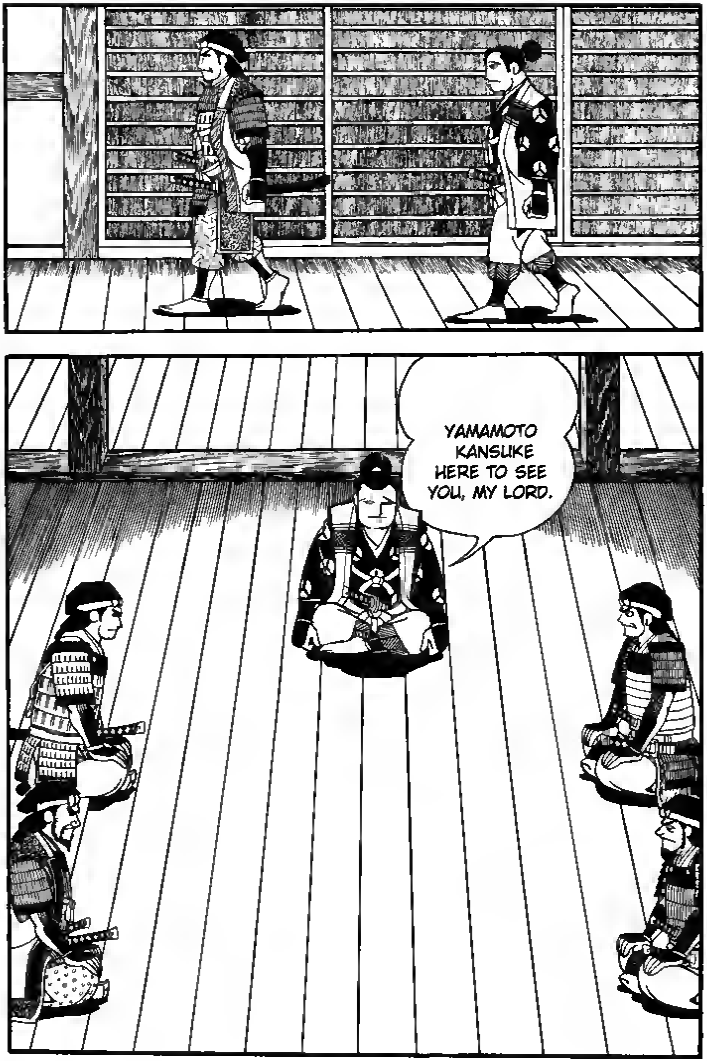

ALL OF THESE STRONGHOLDS COULD BE CAPTURED IN A DAY!

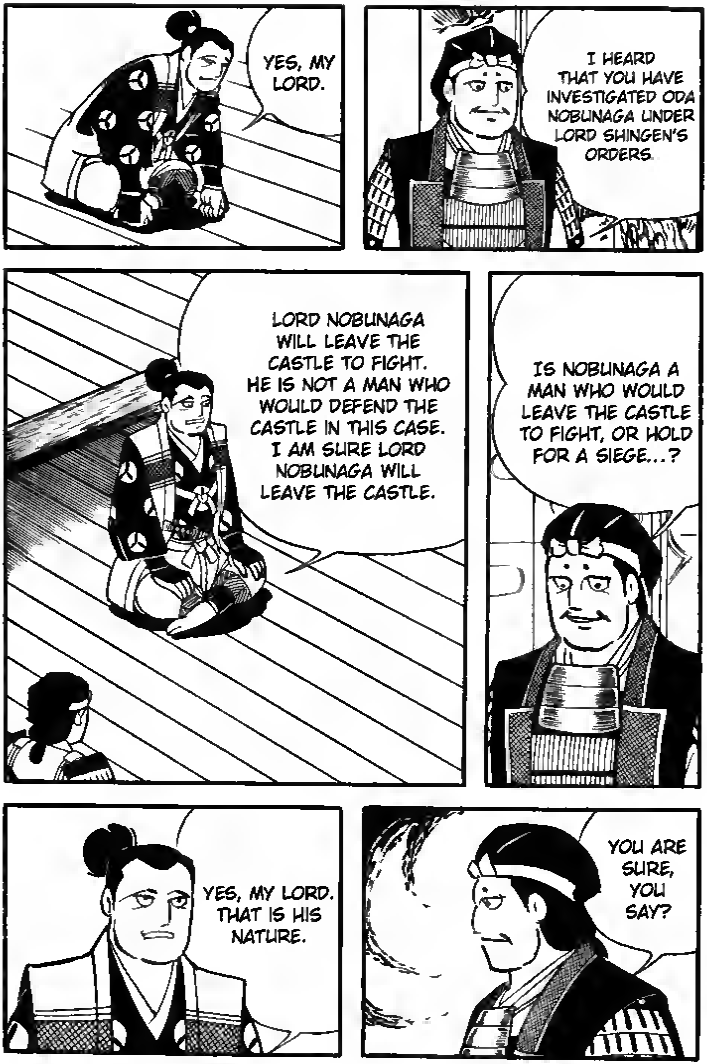

THE ODA HAVE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY IN WASHIZU FORTRESS UNDER ODA GENBA, FOUR HUNDRED IN MARUNE FORTRESS UNDER SAKUMA DAIGAKU, TWO HUNDRED IN TANGE FORTRESS UNDER MIZUNO TADAMITSU, TWO HUNDRED IN ZENSHO TEMPLE UNDER SAKUMA NOBUTOKI, AND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY IN NAKAJIMA CASTLE UNDER KAJIKAWA KAZUHIDE.

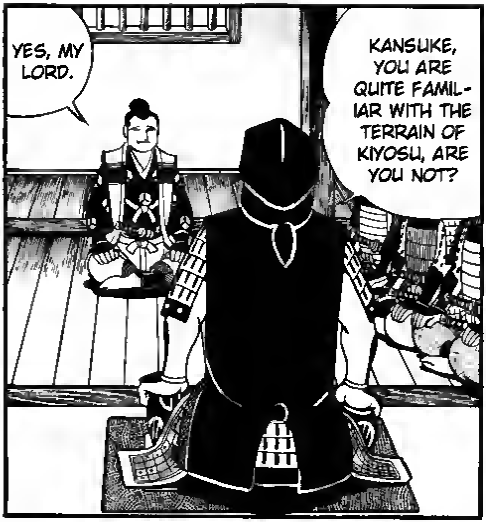

YES, MY LORD. THE ODA ARMY IS REQUESTING REINFORCEMENTS FROM NOBUNAGA, SAYING THEY CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST US.


OH? NOH PLAYS?
BUT ACCORDING TO OUR SPIES, NOBUNAGA SPENDS HIS ENTIRE DAY IN KIYOSU CASTLE DOING NOH PLAYS.

HMM...
JUDGING BY THE FACT THAT HE IS NOT SENDING REINFORCEMENTS, HE MUST BE PREPARING FOR A SIEGE IN KIYOSU CASTLE.
HE IS IN WAITING.
SPEAKING OF SPIES, HOW IS YAMAMOTO KANSUKE, SENT BY SHINGEN OF KAI?
YES, MY LORD.
EXCELLENT. SHOW HIM IN. I HAVE HEARD THAT KANSUKE HAS APPROACHED NOBUNAGA ON SHINGEN'S ORDERS.
WHETHER NOBUNAGA PREPARES FOR A SIEGE OR RIDES OUT TO MEET US, HE CANNOT STAND AGAINST OUR NUMBERS. BUT I WILL ASK FOR HIS OPINION.


YAMAMOTO KANSUKE HERE TO SEE YOU, MY LORD.

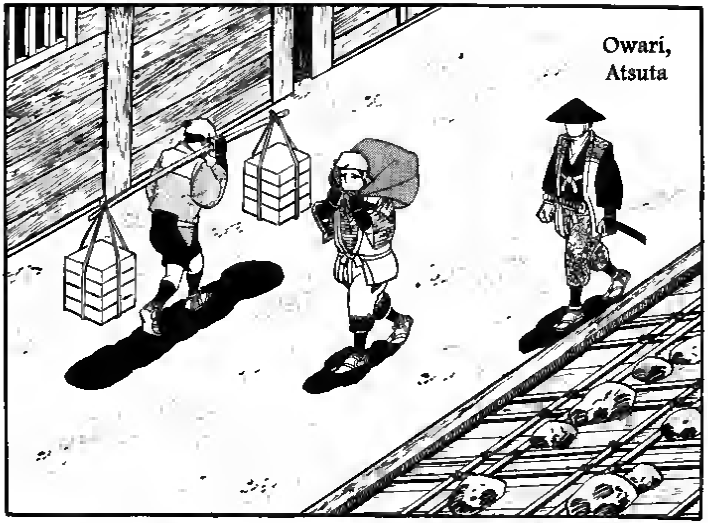

YES, MY LORD.
I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE INVESTIGATED ODA NOBUNAGA UNDER LORD SHINGEN'S ORDERS.
LORD NOBUNAGA WILL LEAVE THE CASTLE TO FIGHT. HE IS NOT A MAN WHO WOULD DEFEND THE CASTLE IN THIS CASE. I AM SURE LORD NOBUNAGA WILL LEAVE THE CASTLE.
IS NOBUNAGA A MAN WHO WOULD LEAVE THE CASTLE TO FIGHT, OR HOLD FOR A SIEGE...?
YES, MY LORD. THAT IS HIS NATURE.
YOU ARE SURE, YOU SAY?


YES, MY LORD.
KANSUKE, YOU ARE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN OF KIYOSU, ARE YOU NOT?

I SEE. WELL, IT WILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF HE LEAVES THE CASTLE.

YES, MY LORD.

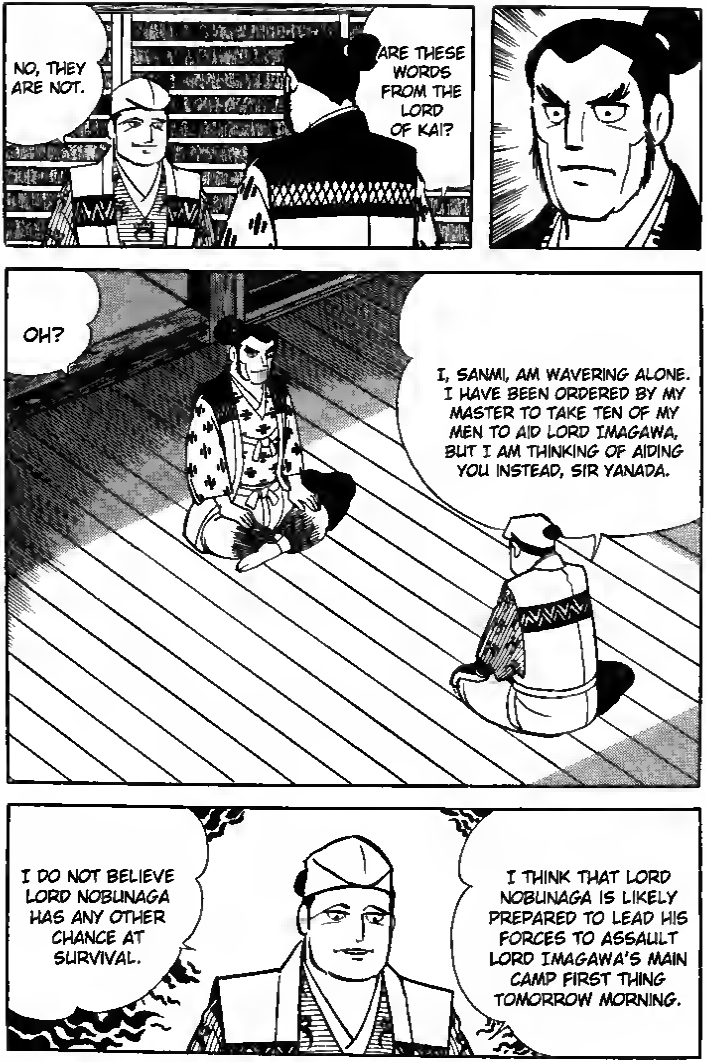
I WANT YOU TO SEND YOUR MEN IN TO KIYOSU IMMEDIATELY, AND INFORM ME OF NOBUNAGA'S ACTIONS. YOUR SPIES AND MINE MAY HAVE DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW.



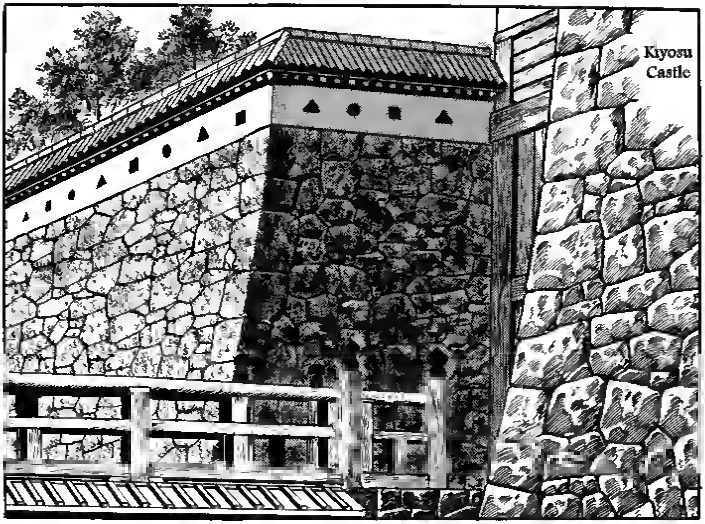
SIGN: OMIYA

I WISH TO SEE SIR YANADA MASATSUNA RIGHT AWAY. I HAVE VERY URGENT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM I AM A MERCHANT FROM THE PROVINCE OF SURUGA NAMED SANMI.
VERY WELL. PLEASE WAIT HERE.
SIR YANADA MASATSUNA SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE NAME SANMI.
OHH, IF IT ISN'T MR. SANMI!
Omiya was one of the rendezvous points for Yanada Masatsuna's spies.

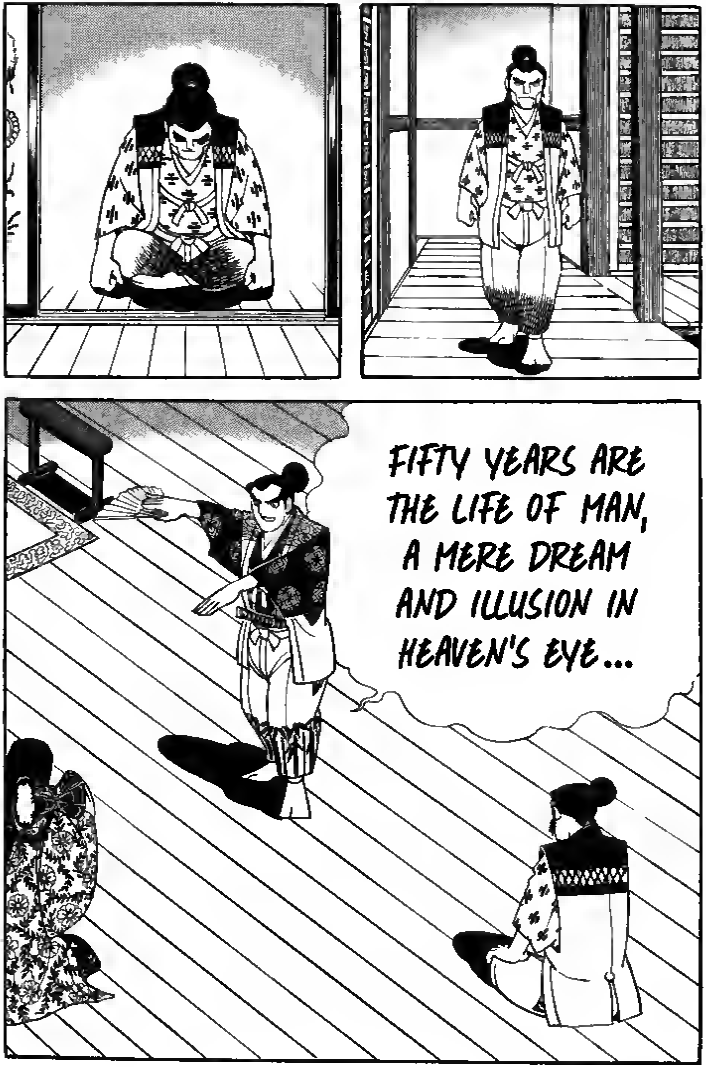
WITH PLEA-SURE.
COME ON INSIDE.
THE TIME FOR WAVERING IN THE EVIL WIND HAS ARRIVED.
NOW, WHAT IS THE OCCASION OF THIS SUDDEN VISIT?


NO, THEY ARE NOT.
ARE THESE WORDS FROM THE LORD OF KAI?
OH?
I, SANMI, AM WAVERING ALONE. I HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY MY MASTER TO TAKE TEN OF MY MEN TO AID LORD IMAGAWA, BUT I AM THINKING OF AIDING YOU INSTEAD, SIR YANADA.
I DO NOT BELIEVE LORD NOBUNAGA HAS ANY OTHER CHANCE AT SURVIVAL.
I THINK THAT LORD NOBUNAGA IS LIKELY PREPARED TO LEAD HIS FORCES TO ASSAULT LORD IMAGAWA'S MAIN CAMP FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING.

SO YOU WOULD COMMIT TREASON OF YOUR OWN WILL, NOT BY LORD TAKEDA SHINGEN'S ORDERS...?
I AM SURE THAT YOU, SIR YANADA, WILL MOBILIZE YOUR FOLLOWERS TO LOCATE LORD IMAGAWA. BUT IMAGAWA HAS MEN OF HIS OWN, AND HIS MAIN CAMP WILL NOT BE EASY TO LOCATE. I AM THINKING OF INFORMING YOU OF ITS LOCATION.
I SEE...
INDEED. THIS IS MY CHOICE ALONE. LORD SHINGEN IS NOT EVEN REMOTELY INVOLVED IN THIS.
PLEASE DO.
I WILL RELAY YOUR MESSAGE TO MY LORD.


Kiyosu Castle

Meanwhile, Nobunaga was not considering even holding a war council, and he instead enjoyed performing Noh every day before the Imagawa Army that was surging like the tide.

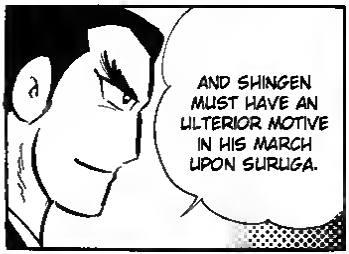

FIFTY YEARS ARE THE LIFE OF MAN, A MERE DREAM AND ILLUSION IN HEAVEN'S EYE...

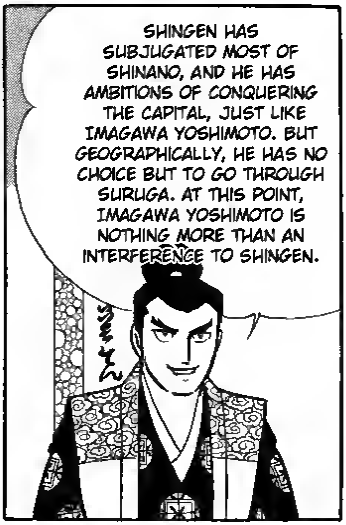
YES, MY LORD.
GOOD. YOU ARE DISMISSED.
I BRING GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, MY LORD.
YANADA! YOU HAVE NEWS FOR ME?

WHAT?
I MET WITH YAMAMOTO KANSUKE OF KAI IN ATSUTA. YAMAMOTO KANSUKE HAS BEEN STATIONED IN THE IMAGAWA CAMP LEADING A HANDFUL OF SPIES, UNDER LORD SHINGEN'S ORDERS, BUT YAMAMOTO KANSUKE HIMSELF IS CONSIDERING BETRAYING THE IMAGAWA AND LEADING THE ODA TO IMAGAWA'S MAIN CAMP.
GOOD NEWS?
BUT WHAT?
BUT...
.....
THIS SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE. IF THIS IS TAKEDA SHINGEN'S ARTIFICE, THEN WE WILL WALTZ RIGHT INTO AN ENEMY AMBUSH.

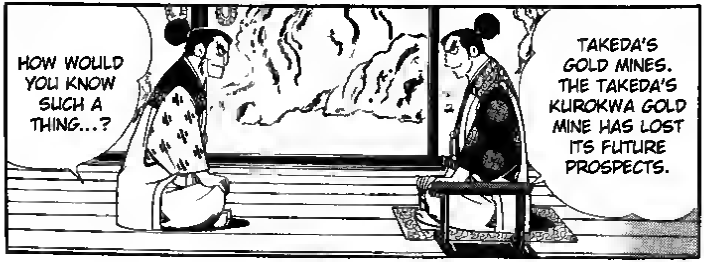
HUH?

YOU MAY CONSIDER THIS INFORMATION TO BE TRUTH.

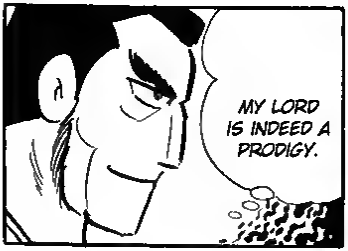

AND SHINGEN MUST HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN HIS MARCH UPON SURUGA.

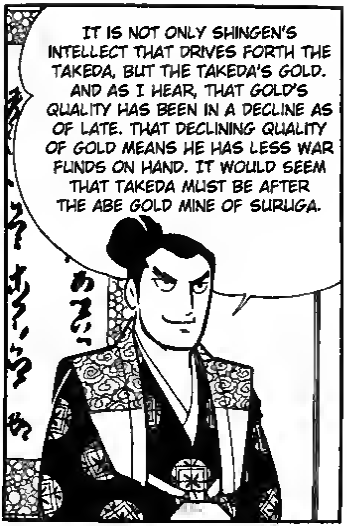

SHINGEN HAS SUBJUGATED MOST OF SHINANO, AND HE HAS AMBITIONS OF CONQUERING THE CAPITAL, JUST LIKE IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO. BUT GEOGRAPHICALLY, HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO GO THROUGH SURUGA. AT THIS POINT, IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN INTERFERENCE TO SHINGEN.

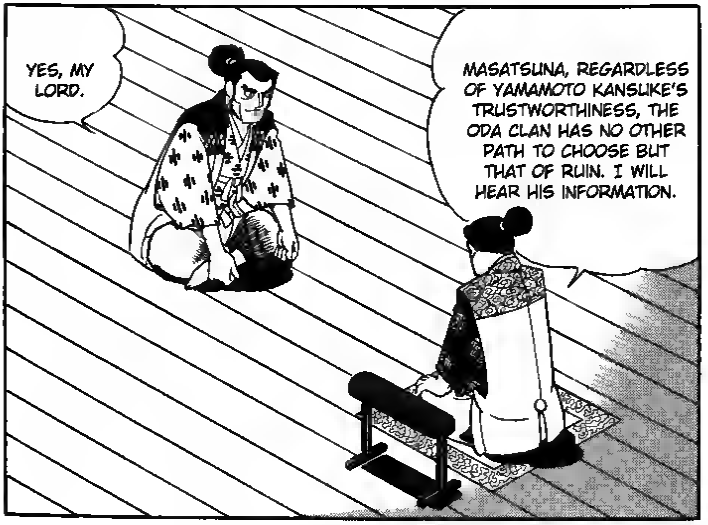
HUH...?


HOW WOULD YOU KNOW SUCH A THING...?
TAKEDA'S GOLD MINES. THE TAKEDA'S KUROKWA GOLD MINE HAS LOST ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

AH...


MY LORD IS INDEED A PRODIGY.


IT IS NOT ONLY SHINGEN'S INTELLECT THAT DRIVES FORTH THE TAKEDA, BUT THE TAKEDA'S GOLD. AND AS I HEAR, THAT GOLD'S QUALITY HAS BEEN IN A DECLINE AS OF LATE. THAT DECLINING QUALITY OF GOLD MEANS HE HAS LESS WAR FUNDS ON HAND. IT WOULD SEEM THAT TAKEDA MUST BE AFTER THE ABE GOLD MINE OF SURUGA.

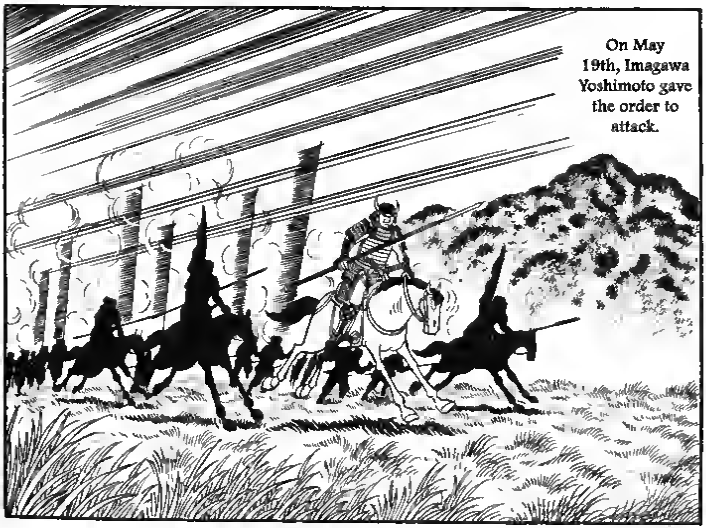

YES, MY LORD.
MASATSUNA, REGARDLESS OF YAMAMOTO KANSUKE'S TRUSTWORTHINESS, THE ODA CLAN HAS NO OTHER PATH TO CHOOSE BUT THAT OF RUIN. I WILL HEAR HIS INFORMATION.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

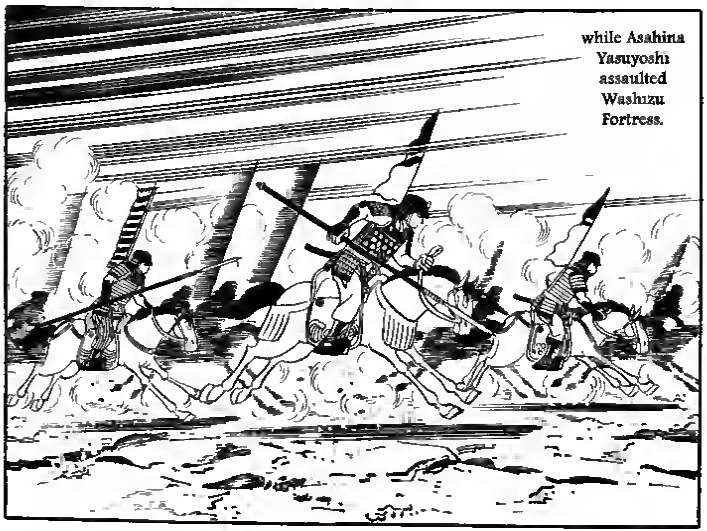
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

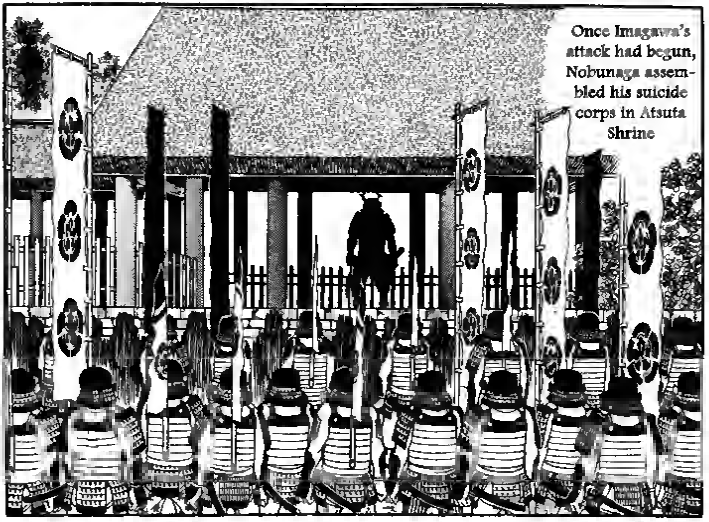
CHAPTER 46

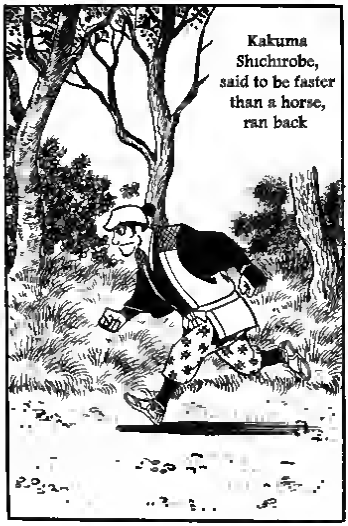
Chapter 47:
The Battle of Okehazama

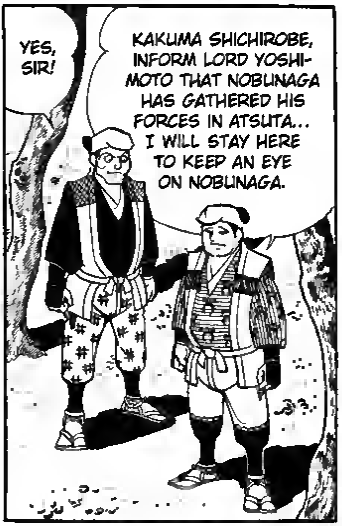


Imagawa's vanguard, the Matsudaira Army (Tokugawa Ieyasu), assaulted Marune Fortress,

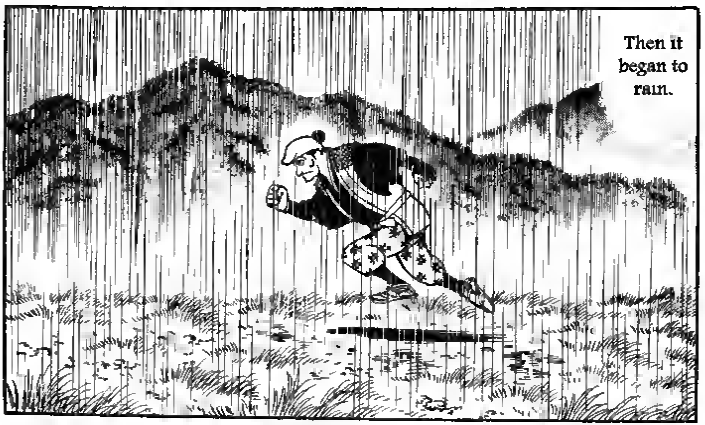

while Asahina Yasuyoshi assaulted Washizu Fortress.

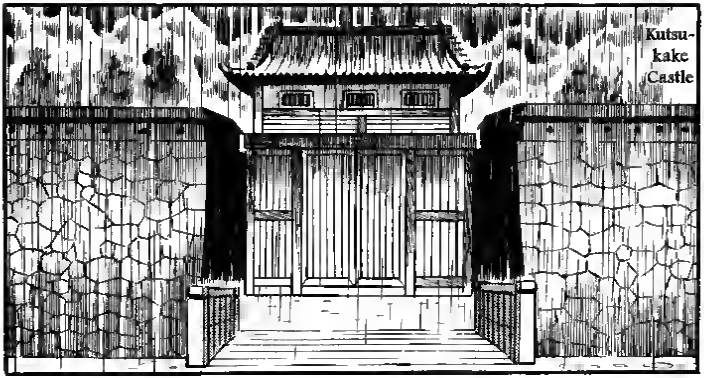

Once Imagawa's attack had begun, Nobunaga assembled his suicide corps in Atsuta Shrine

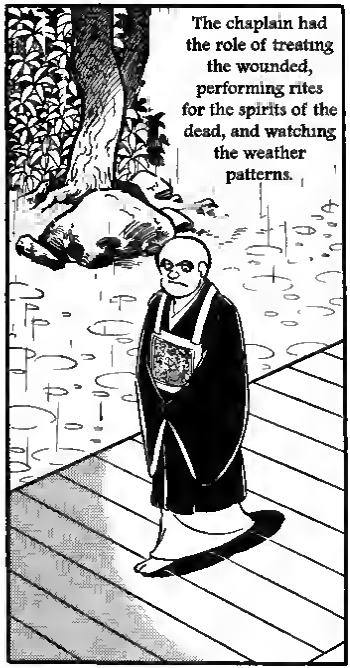

Kakuma Shichirobe, said to be faster than a horse, ran back

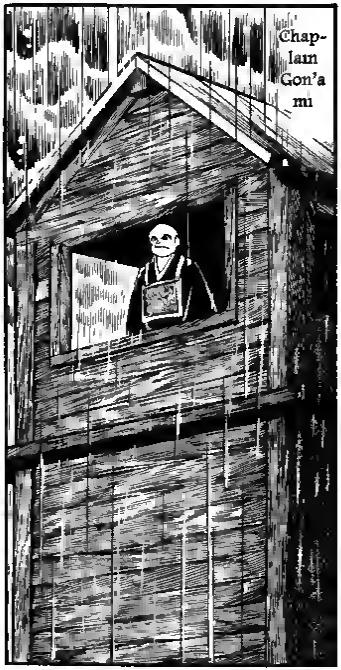

YES, SIR!
KAKUMA SHICHIROBE, INFORM LORD YOSHIMOTO THAT NOBUNAGA HAS GATHERED HIS FORCES IN ATSUTA... I WILL STAY HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON NOBUNAGA.

As Kakuma Shichirobe ran, he saw Marune Fortress and Washizu Fortress fall before his eyes.


Then it began to rain.


Kutsu-
kake
Castle


The chaplain had the role of treating the wounded, performing rites for the spirits of the dead, and watching the weather patterns.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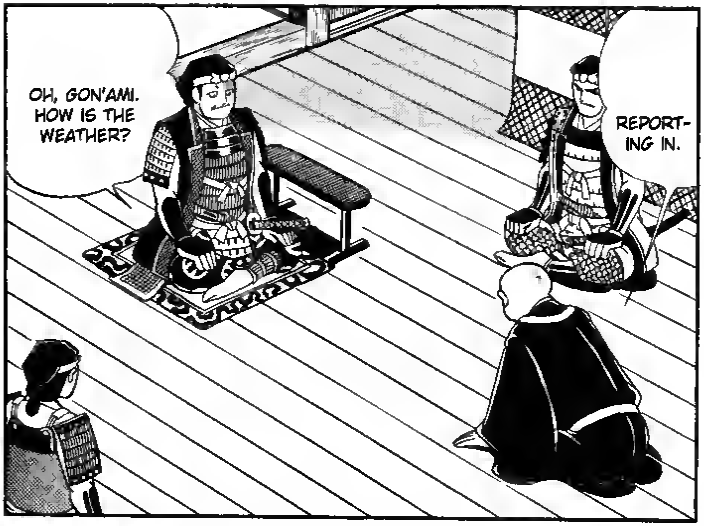
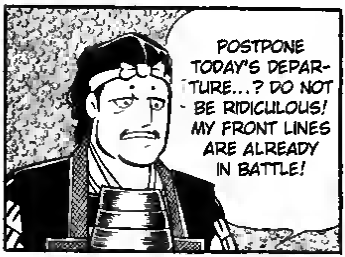
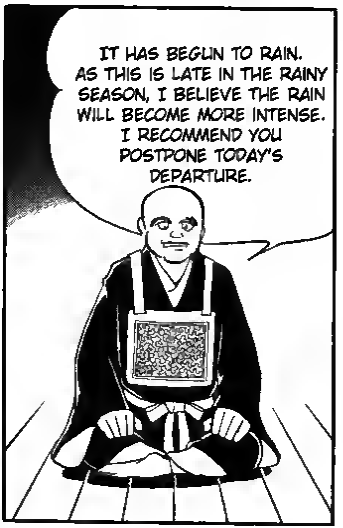
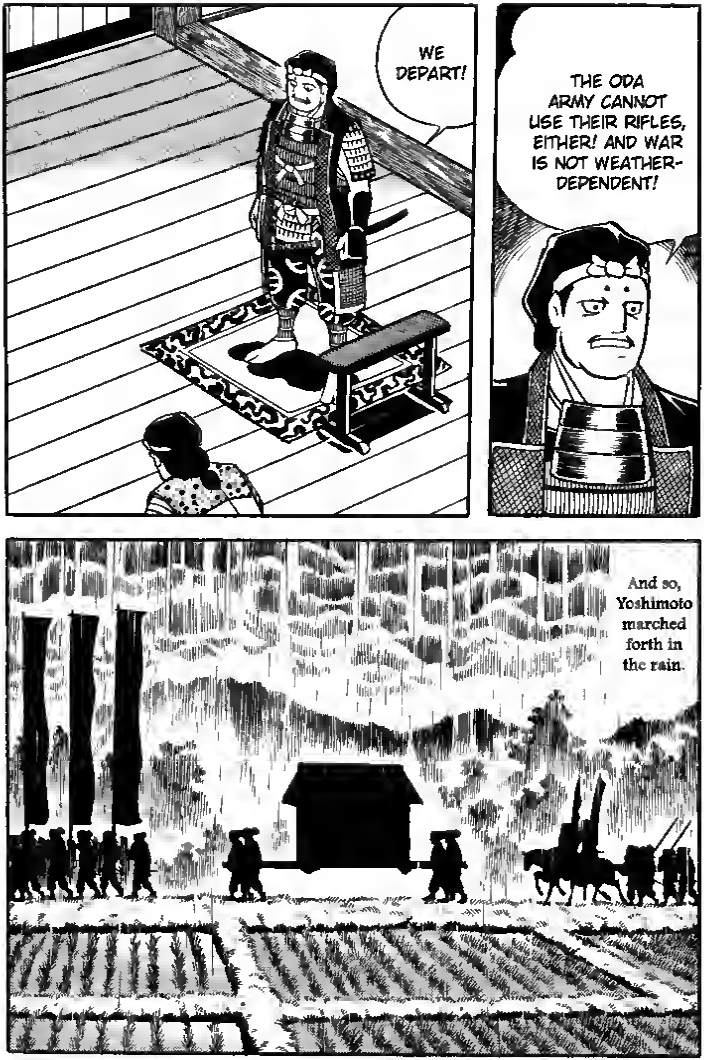

OH, GON'AMI. HOW IS THE WEATHER?
REPORTING IN.


POSTPONE TODAY'S DEPARTURE...? DO NOT BE RIDICULOUS! MY FRONT LINES ARE ALREADY IN BATTLE!

BUT IF THE RAIN WORSENS, YOUR RIFLES WILL BE RENDERED USELESS.


IT HAS BEGUN TO RAIN. AS THIS IS LATE IN THE RAINY SEASON, I BELIEVE THE RAIN WILL BECOME MORE INTENSE. I RECOMMEND YOU POSTPONE TODAY'S DEPARTURE.

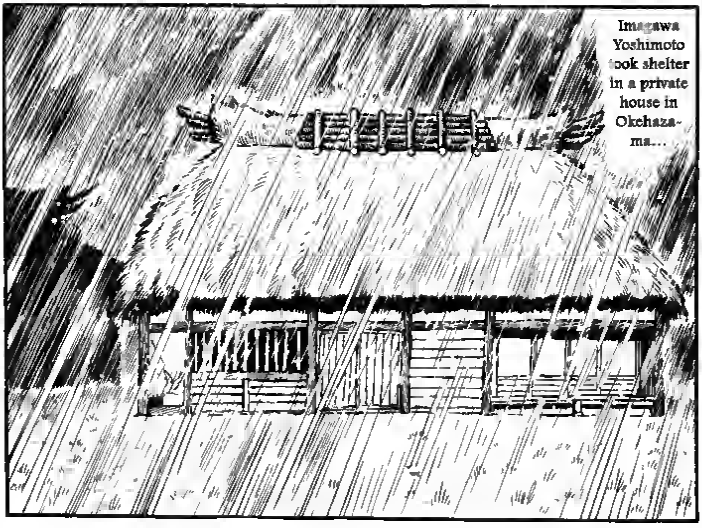

WE DEPART!
THE ODA ARMY CANNOT USE THEIR RIFLES, EITHER! AND WAR IS NOT WEATHER-DEPENDENT!
And so, Yoshimoto marched forth in the rain.

REPORTING IN! KAKUMA SHICHIROBE, SUBORDINATE OF YAMAMOTO KANSUKE, IS HERE.
OH, I SEE.
OUR ALLIES HAVE TAKEN MARUNE FORTRESS AND WASHIZU FORTRESS.
I SEE. GOOD WORK.
NOBUNAGA HAS ASSEMBLED A THOUSAND MEN IN ATSUTA. SIR KANSUKE WILL FOLLOW WITH A REPORT ON NOBUNAGA.

HAHAHA! AT THIS PACE, WE CAN TAKE KIYOSU CASTLE BY NIGHTFALL!
MY LORD, WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE NOBUNAGA'S MAIN FORCE IN ATSUTA IS HEADED?
HAHAHA! I AM NOT CONCERNED OVER THE COURSE OF A MERE THOUSAND! THEY CANNOT EVEN USE THEIR RIFLES IN THIS RAIN!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
BUT MY LORD, NOBUNAGA HAS PROVED TO BE A CLEVER OPPORTUNIST IN HIS PREVIOUS BATTLE! AND ESPECIALLY WITH THIS RAIN, ENCOUNTERING THE NOBUNAGA ARMY MAY PROVE TO BE A MISTAKE!
I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO AVOID A DIRECT CONFRONTATION, AND GO TO OTAKA CASTLE ON A FAMILIAR ROAD.

HMM... CLEAR ENOUGH THAT EVERYTHING IS VISIBLE...
ACCORDING TO GON'AMI, THE WEATHER WILL IMPROVE BY TOMORROW. I BELIEVE IT IS BETTER TO SPEND THIS NIGHT IN OTAKA CASTLE, AND PUT AN END TO THE ODA CLAN TOMORROW, WHEN IT WILL BE CLEAR ENOUGH THAT EVERYTHING IS VISIBLE.
YOU ARE SUGGESTING WE GIVE NOBUNAGA ANOTHER DAY TO LIVE?
THEN LET US HEAD FOR OTAKA CASTLE THROUGH OKEHAZAMA.
VERY WELL, WE SHALL HEAD FOR OTAKA CASTLE.
And so, Yoshimoto suddenly changed course.

It was at that moment that the rain turned into a downpour, with thunder as well.
ゴロゴロゴロ


Imagawa Yoshimoto took shelter in a private house in Okehaza-ma...

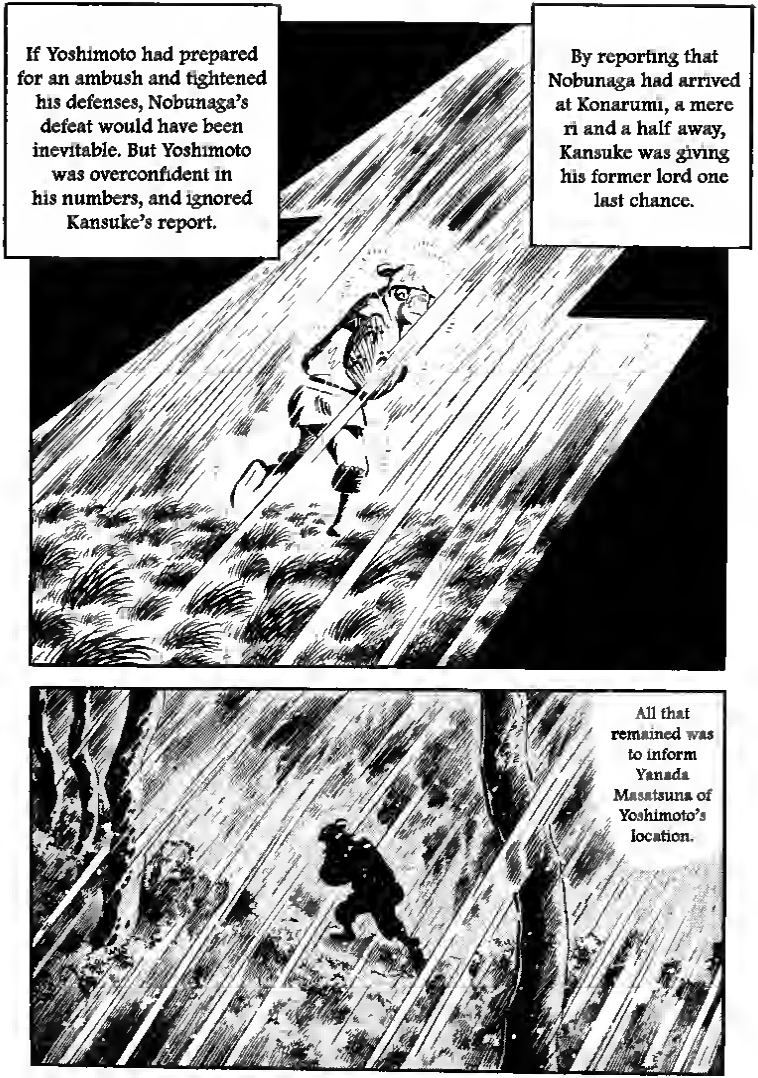
and held a banquet to celebrate the fall of Washizu and Marune Fortress.

It was then that Kansuke came running back.

COME CLOSER, KANSUKE.
REPORTING IN.
KONA-RUMI..?
I HAVE SEEN ODA NOBUNAGA LEADING ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED HORSEMEN SOUTH TO KONARUMI.
WHAT CAN HE DO WITH AN ARMY COMPOSED OF MERELY EIGHT HUNDRED? AND HOW DOES HE EXPECT TO MARCH IN THIS TORRENT?

YES, MY LORD.
LET KANSUKE HAVE SOME WINE TO DRINK.
I CANNOT, FOR I STILL HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
HERE. DRINK.
I CANNOT FULFILL MY DUTY BY DRINKING IN DAYTIME, EVEN UNDER THE MASTER'S ORDERS.
BUT THE MASTER HAS COMMANDED IT!
DO AS YOU WISH.
I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE.

I HAVE NO NEED TO REPORT MY INTENTIONS TO A CHAPLAIN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING IN THIS RAIN?
. . . .
I CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL OF THAT CHAPLAIN.

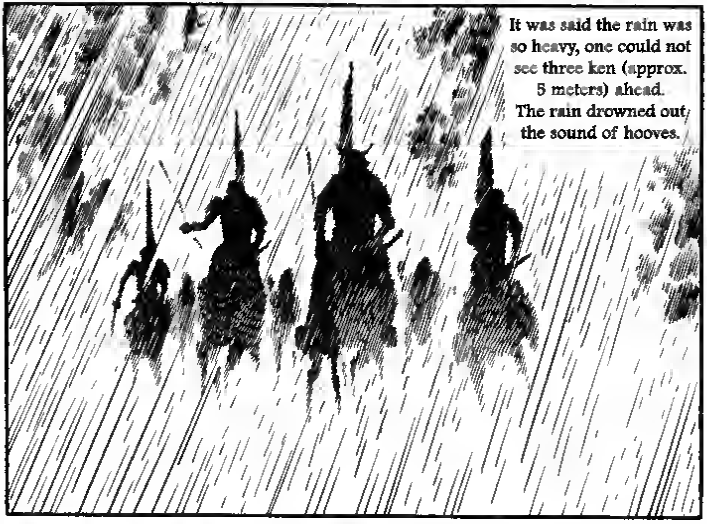

If Yoshimoto had prepared for an ambush and tightened his defenses, Nobunaga's defeat would have been inevitable. But Yoshimoto was overconfident in his numbers, and ignored Kansuke's report.
By reporting that Nobunaga had arrived at Konarumi, a mere ri and a half away, Kansuke was giving his former lord one last chance.
All that remained was to inform Yanada Masatsuna of Yoshimoto's location.

Nobunaga had advanced to Mt. Taishigane in the downpour. This was the gamble of Nobunaga's lifetime
HUH?
HALT!
MY NAME IS SANMI, AND I AM ON YOUR SIDE. I WISH TO SEE SIR YANADA MASATSUNA.

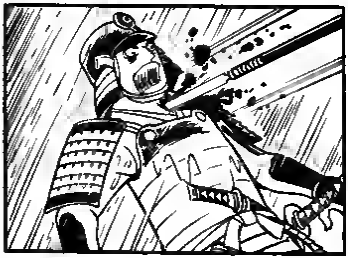
COME WITH ME!
OHH! YOU CAME, AS YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD!
GOOD.
MY LORD! SIR YAMAMOTO KANSUKE IS HERE!
LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO HAS TAKEN SHELTER FROM THE RAIN IN A PRIVATE HOUSE ABOUT FIVE CHO (APPROX. 500 METERS) TO THE EAST OF THE NEARBY RAVINE.
WHERE IS IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO?

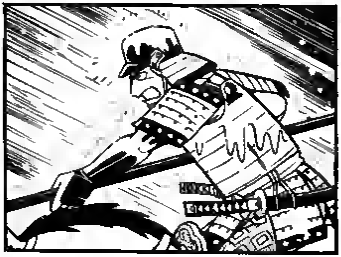
UNDER-STOOD.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF HOUSES BELOW US, BUT LORD YOSHIMOTO IS TAKING SHELTER IN THE LARGEST.
IF YOU PROCEED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN YOU WILL FIND KUZUYAMA NOBUSATA'S ARMY LOITERING AROUND. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO ATTACK A LITTLE MORE TO THE EAST.
LET US GO! THIS BATTLE SHALL DECIDE THE LIFE OR DEATH OF THE ODA CLAN!
SEND LORD SHINGEN MY REGARDS.
.....

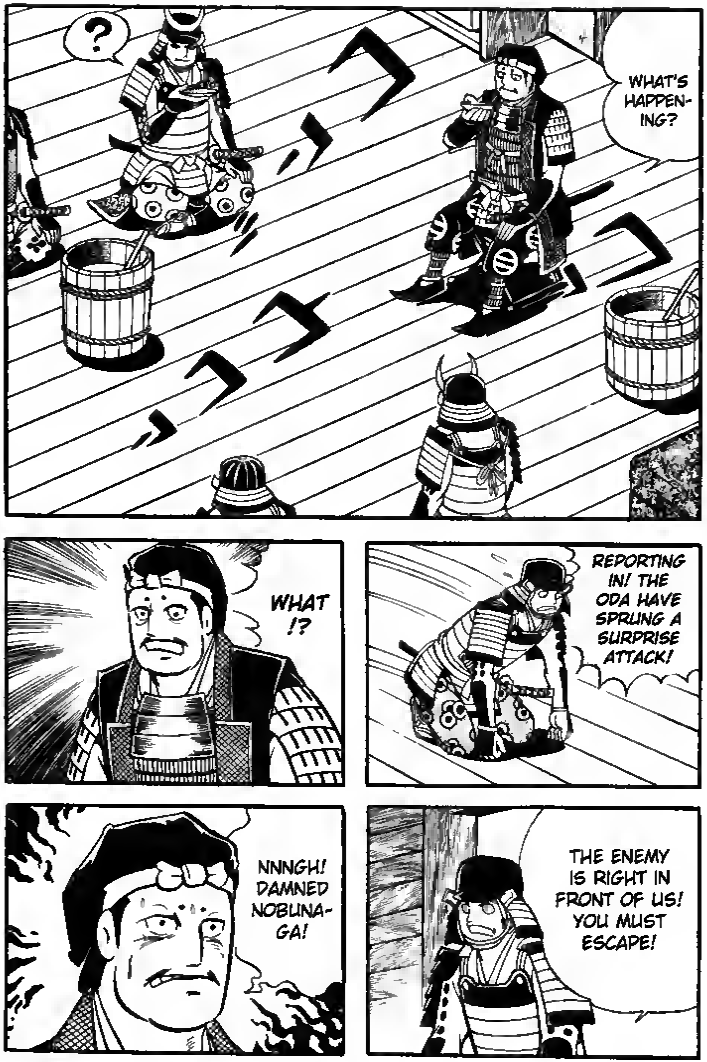
The Oda Army descended Mt Taishi-gane.


It was said the rain was so heavy, one could not see three ken (approx. 5 meters) ahead. The rain drowned out the sound of hooves.

?
Imagawa's main camp was guarded by two hundred guards, but due to the heavy rain, they could not notice the enemy until the Oda Army was right before their very eyes.





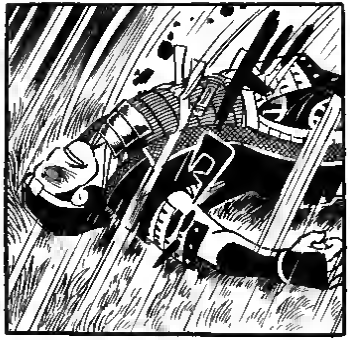

?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT!?
REPORTING IN! THE ODA HAVE SPRUNG A SURPRISE ATTACK!
NNNGH! DAMNED NOBUNAGA!
THE ENEMY IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US! YOU MUST ESCAPE!

The Oda Army had nothing in their sights but the main camp.

YES.
HURRY, MY LORD! WE WILL DEFEND THIS POINT!

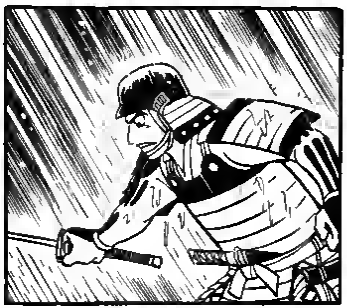
LORD IMAGAWA YOSHI-MOTO IN SIGHT!

IMPUDENT FOOL!
I AM ODA NOBUNAGA'S RETAINER, MORI SHINSUKE!
SOMEBODY HELP!
UGGH!



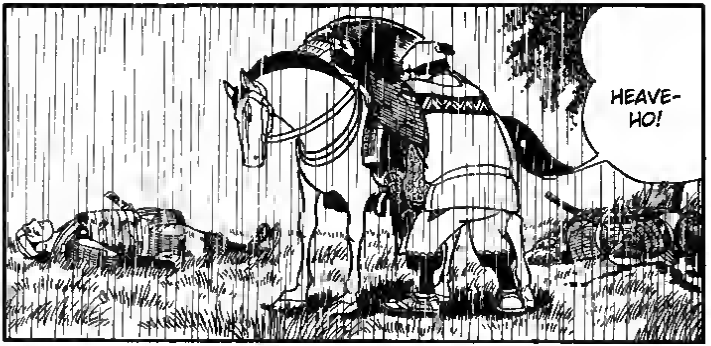
T...TO THINK I WOULD BE SLAIN... BY SUCH A FOOL... AS NOBUNAGA...

I, MORI SHINSUKE, HAVE SLAIN IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO!

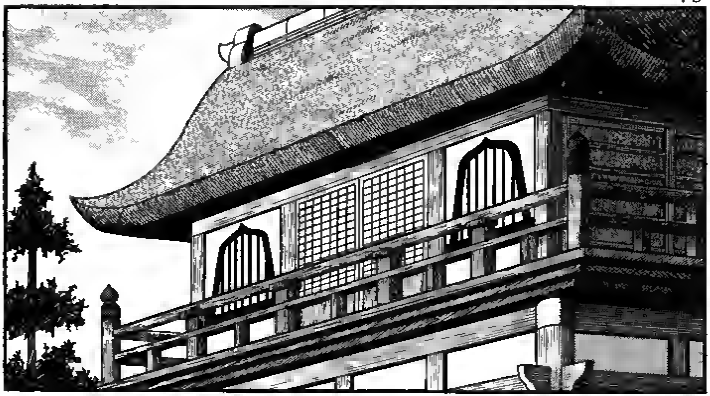


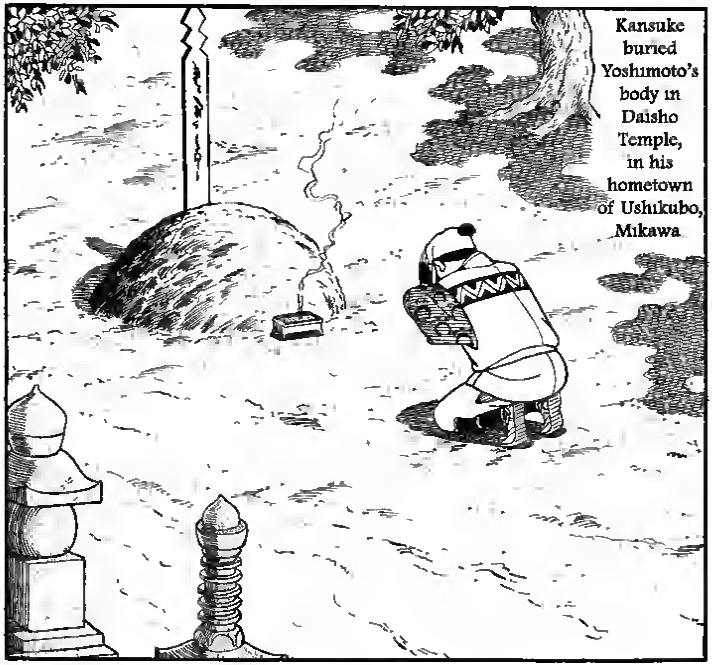
THERE IS A CRIMSON SEA OF BLOOD HERE. I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE IMAGAWA HAVE BEEN SLAIN.

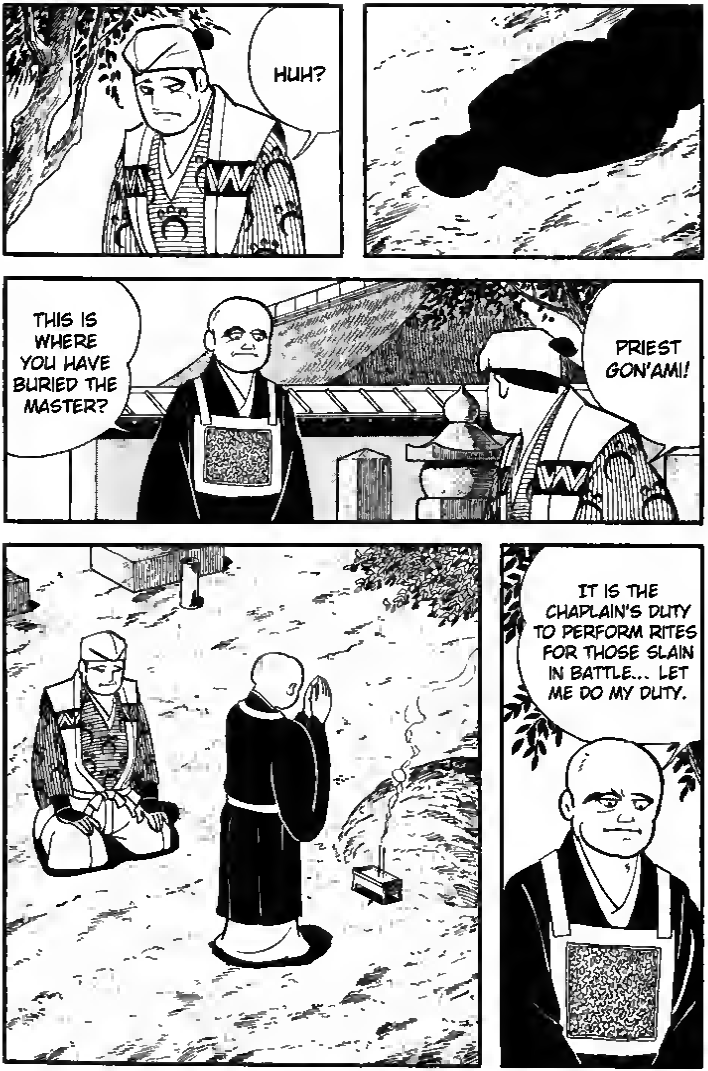
THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO... HE IS BARELY EVEN RECOGNIZABLE NOW...
ドルドル

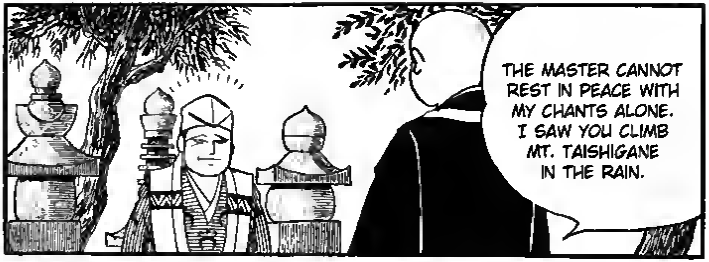

HEAVE-
HO!

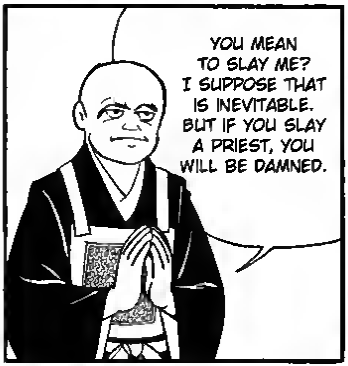
Kansuke could not bear to simply leave Yoshimoto's body in the rain.

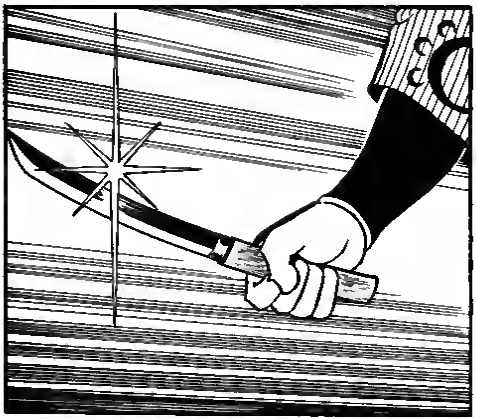



Kansuke buried Yoshimoto's body in Daisho Temple, in his hometown of Ushikubo, Mikawa

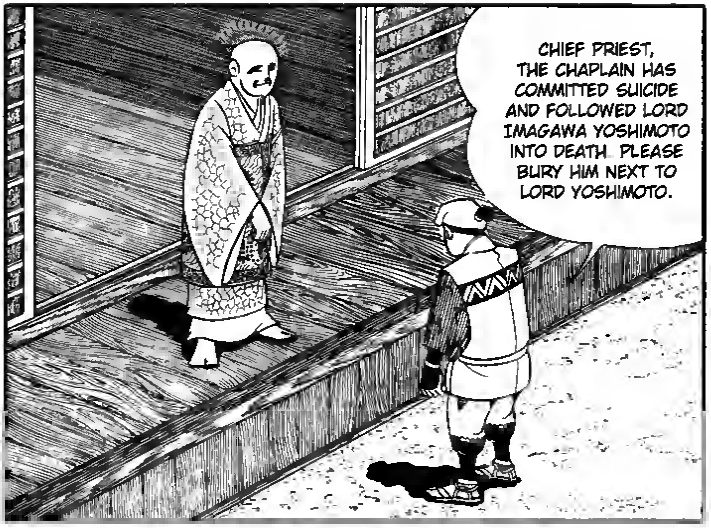

HUH?
PRIEST GON'AMI!
THIS IS WHERE YOU HAVE BURIED THE MASTER?
IT IS THE CHAPLAIN'S DUTY TO PERFORM RITES FOR THOSE SLAIN IN BATTLE... LET ME DO MY DUTY.


THE MASTER CANNOT REST IN PEACE WITH MY CHANTS ALONE. I SAW YOU CLIMB MT. TAISHIGANE IN THE RAIN.


YOU MEAN TO SLAY ME? I SUPPOSE THAT IS INEVITABLE. BUT IF YOU SLAY A PRIEST, YOU WILL BE DAMNED.



Y-YOU TRAITOROUS SCUM... FEAR THE WRATH OF BUDDHA...


CHIEF PRIEST, THE CHAPLAIN HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE AND FOLLOWED LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO INTO DEATH. PLEASE BURY HIM NEXT TO LORD YOSHIMOTO.

I UNDER-STAND. I SHALL GIVE HIM A WARM BURIAL.

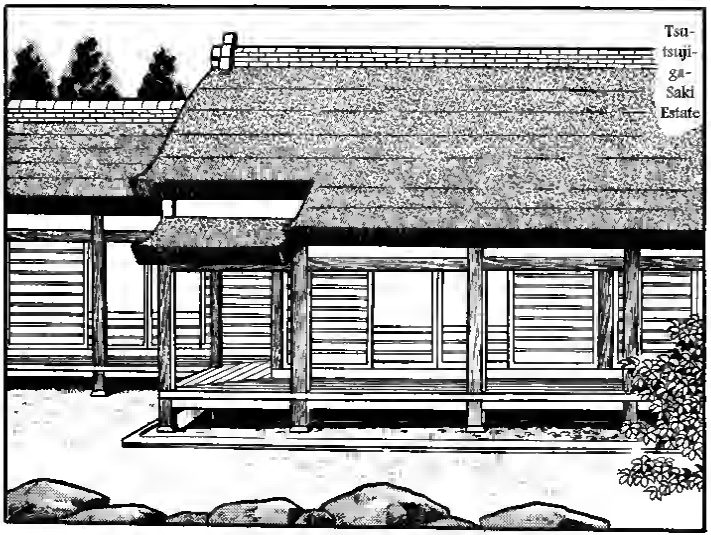
PLEASE DO.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 47

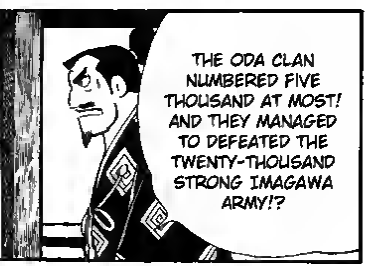
Chapter 48: Kagetora Is in Kanto

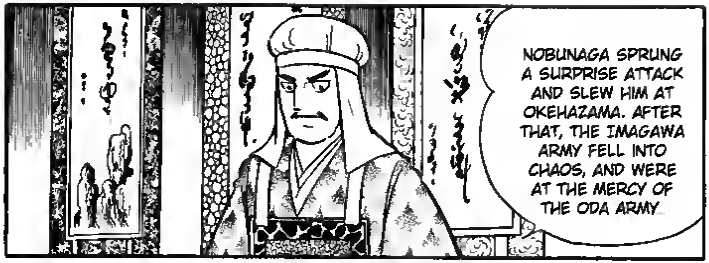


W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM KANSUKE. LORD YOSHIMOTO HAS BEEN SLAIN.

YES.


THE ODA CLAN NUMBERED FIVE THOUSAND AT MOST! AND THEY MANAGED TO DEFEATED THE TWENTY-THOUSAND STRONG IMAGAWA ARMY!?


NOBUNAGA SPRUNG A SURPRISE ATTACK AND SLEW HIM AT OKEHAZAMA. AFTER THAT, THE IMAGAWA ARMY FELL INTO CHAOS, AND WERE AT THE MERCY OF THE ODA ARMY.

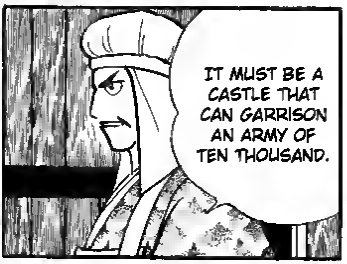
OBU SABU-ROBE.
YES, MY LORD?

HIS HEIR UJIZANE LACKS THE POTENTIAL TO DEFEND SURUGA. AND WITHOUT THE IMAGAWA'S POWER, KANTO WILL RUN RAMPANT.

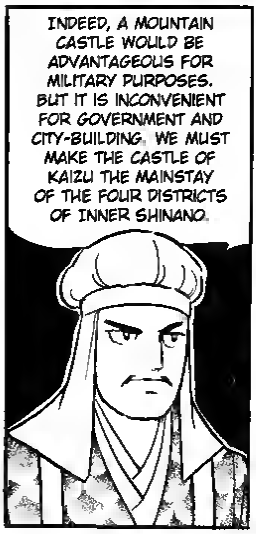
A CASTLE ON THE BANKS OF THE CHIKUMA RIVER...?

SEND A MESSENGER TO KASUGA DANJO, AND HAVE HIM BUILD A CASTLE IN KAIZU.

GARRISON AN ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND?

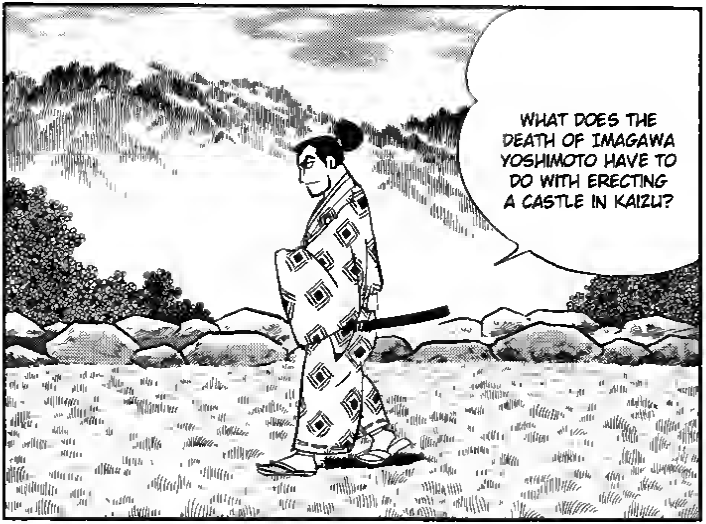

IT MUST BE A CASTLE THAT CAN GARRISON AN ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND.

TSUTSUJI-GA-SAKI IS NOT A CASTLE. IT IS A MANSION AT BEST.
YOU MEAN WE MUST BUILD A CASTLE GREATER THAN TSUTSUJI-GA-SAKI?

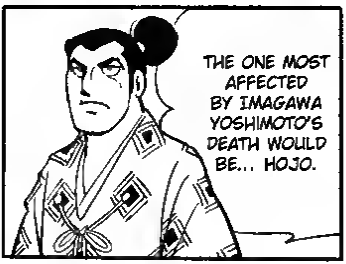

INDEED, A MOUNTAIN CASTLE WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. BUT IT IS INCONVENIENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND CITY-BUILDING. WE MUST MAKE THE CASTLE OF KAIZU THE MAINSTAY OF THE FOUR DISTRICTS OF INNER SHINANO.

BUT I BELIEVE A MOUNTAIN CASTLE WOULD BE MORE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
I WANT A CASTLE ON THE PLAINS THAT IS READY FOR BATTLE.

GOOD.
YES, MY LORD. I WILL TELL KASUGA DANJO SO.


WHAT DOES THE DEATH OF IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO HAVE TO DO WITH ERECTING A CASTLE IN KAIZU?

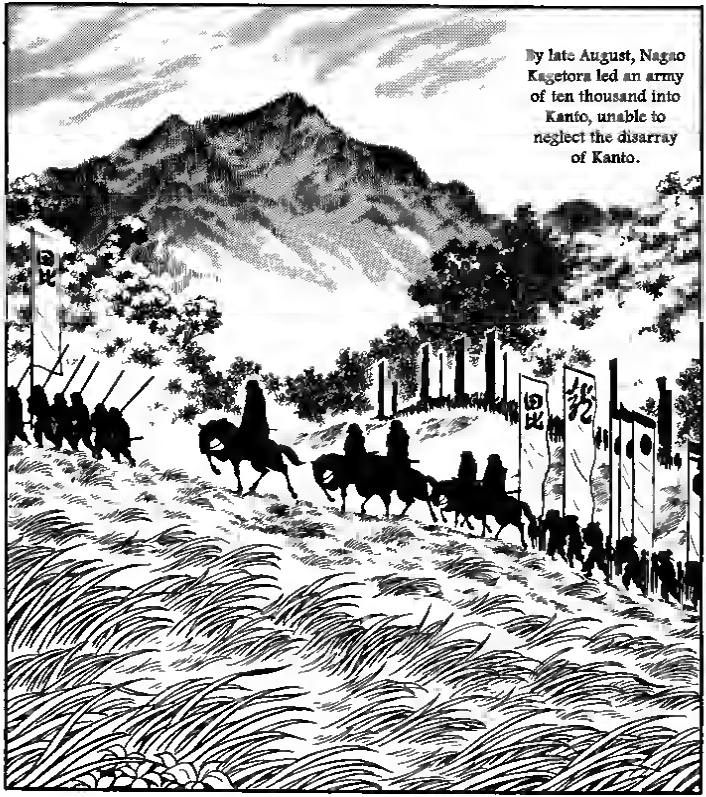
AH! I UNDERSTAND NOW!


THE ONE MOST AFFECTED BY IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S DEATH WOULD BE... HOJO.

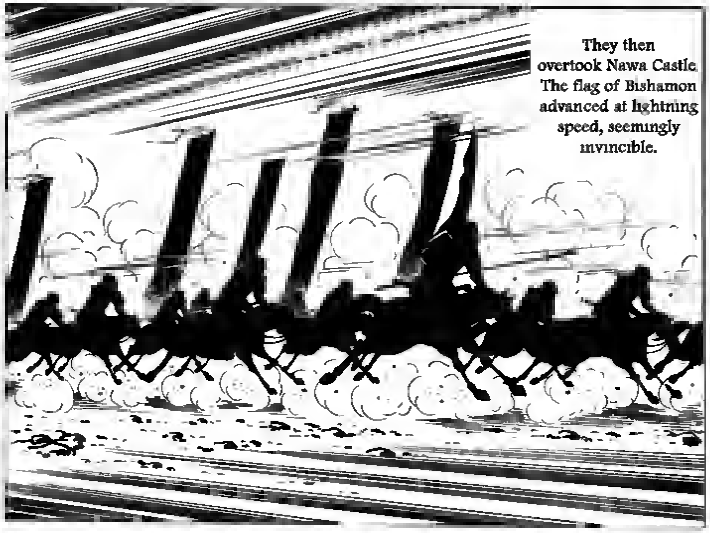
THE ONLY REASON THE HOJO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BANISH UESUGI NORIMASA, GOVERNOR OF KANTO, TO ECHIGO, AND SUBJUGATED THE CLANS OF KANTO WITH THE SWORD WITH GREAT VIGOR, IS BECAUSE OF THE THREE-PROVINCE ALLIANCE...
BUT WITH SURUGA UNSTABLE, THE HOJO WILL BE UNABLE TO REACH OUT TO KANTO SO OPENLY.
AND THE RESIDENT GENERALS OF KANTO FAVOURED BY UESUGI WILL NOT LET THIS CHANCE GO BY. THEY WILL RISE UP TO RESTORE HIM!
AND THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN UNIFY THESE MALCONTENTS...

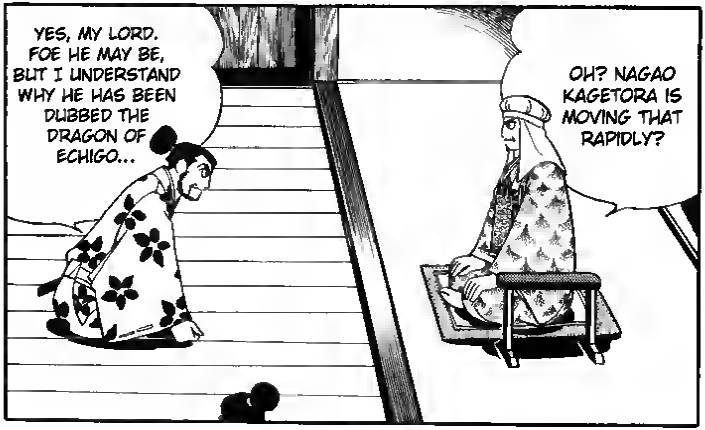
THE MAN APPOINTED AS GOVERNOR OF KANTO THIS PAST OCTOBER IN PLACE OF UESUGI NORIMASA, NAGAO KAGETORA! KAGETORA WILL NOT PASS UP THIS CHANCE TO DISPLAY HIS POWER AND BE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS GOVERNOR OF KANTO!
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!
BUT IF KAGETORA MARCHES UPON KANTO, THE MASTER WILL HAVE THE PERFECT CHANCE TO CONQUER THE FOUR DISTRICTS OF INNER SHINANO!
REGARDLESS, IT'S RATHER FRIGHTENING HOW MANY STEPS AHEAD THE MASTER THINKS.

Shingen's predictions proved to be accurate

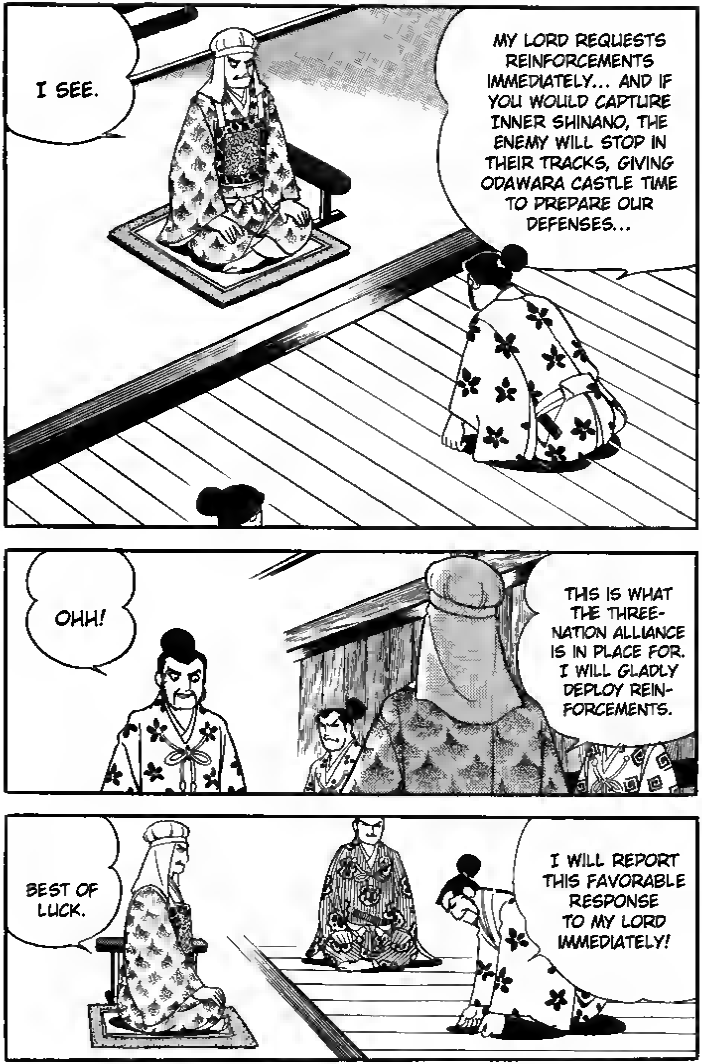

By late August, Nagao Kagetora led an army of ten thousand into Kanto, unable to neglect the disarray of Kanto.

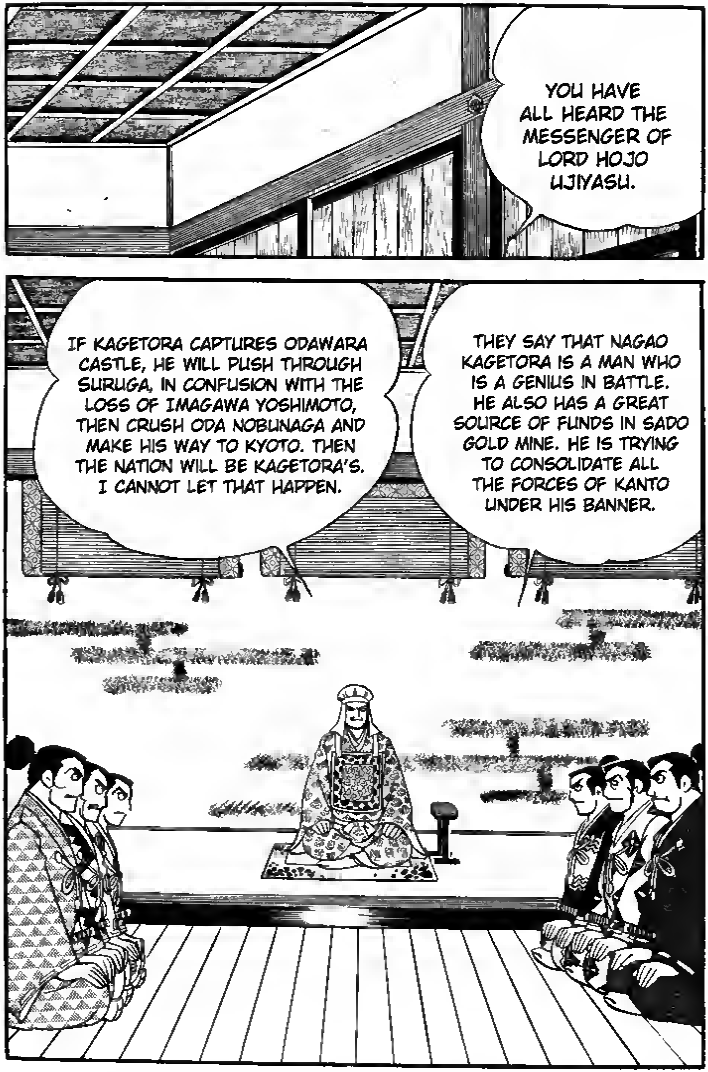
The Echigo Army arrived in Kanto by early September, and proceeded to capture Numata Castle and Umayabashi Castle (Maebashi) in succession


They then overtook Nawa Castle. The flag of Bishamon advanced at lightning speed, seemingly invincible.

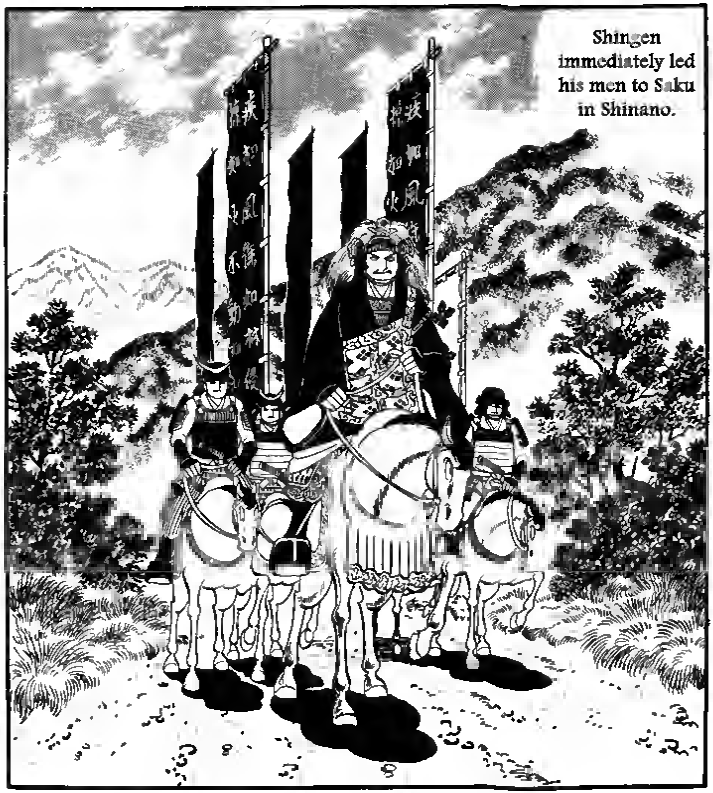

YES, MY LORD. FOE HE MAY BE, BUT I UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAS BEEN DUBBED THE DRAGON OF ECHIGO...
OH? NAGAO KAGETORA IS MOVING THAT RAPIDLY?

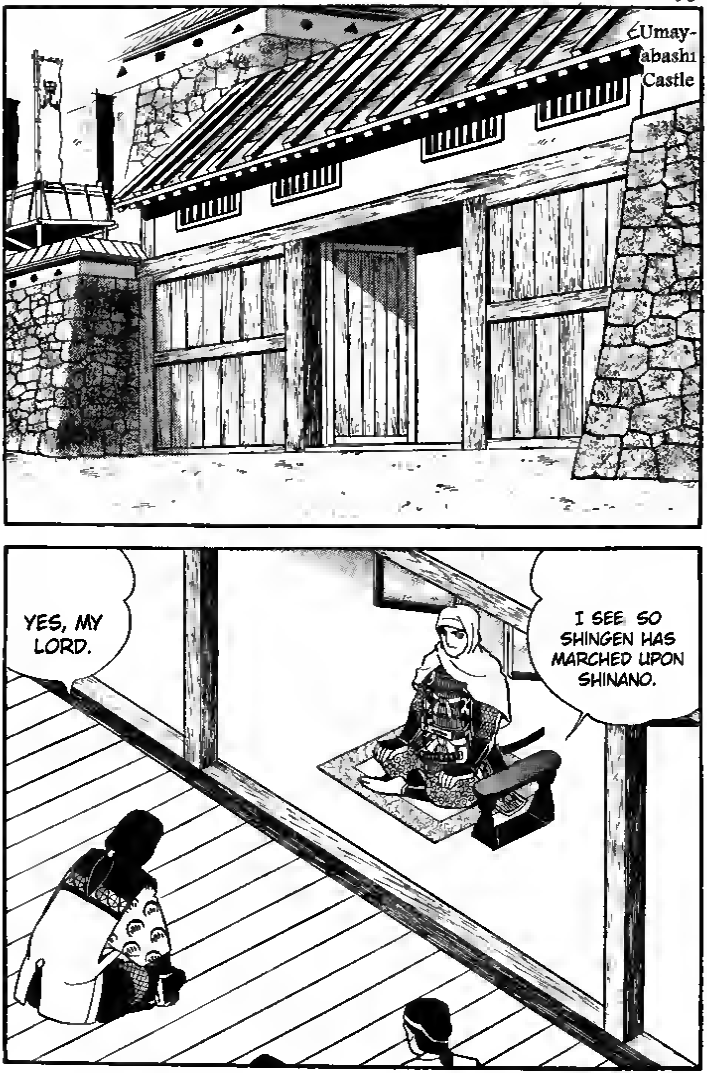
HMM...
ODAWARA CASTLE HAS STILL NOT FULLY PREPARED ITS DEFENSES. IF THEY CONTINUE TO ADVANCE AT THIS STEADY PACE, IT WILL NOT HOLD.


I SEE.
MY LORD REQUESTS REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY... AND IF YOU WOULD CAPTURE INNER SHINANO, THE ENEMY WILL STOP IN THEIR TRACKS, GIVING ODAWARA CASTLE TIME TO PREPARE OUR DEFENSES...
OHH!
THIS IS WHAT THE THREE-NATION ALLIANCE IS IN PLACE FOR. I WILL GLADLY DEPLOY REINFORCEMENTS.
BEST OF LUCK.
I WILL REPORT THIS FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO MY LORD IMMEDIATELY!

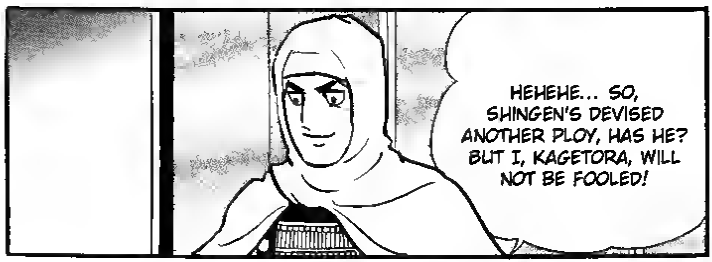

YOU HAVE ALL HEARD THE MESSENGER OF LORD HOJO UJIYASU.
IF KAGETORA CAPTURES ODAWARA CASTLE, HE WILL PUSH THROUGH SURUGA, IN CONFUSION WITH THE LOSS OF IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, THEN CRUSH ODA NOBUNAGA AND MAKE HIS WAY TO KYOTO. THEN THE NATION WILL BE KAGETORA'S. I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN.
THEY SAY THAT NAGAO KAGETORA IS A MAN WHO IS A GENIUS IN BATTLE. HE ALSO HAS A GREAT SOURCE OF FUNDS IN SADO GOLD MINE. HE IS TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE ALL THE FORCES OF KANTO UNDER HIS BANNER.

I WILL MARCH OUT TO SAKU, AND OBSERVE ECHIGO FROM THERE.

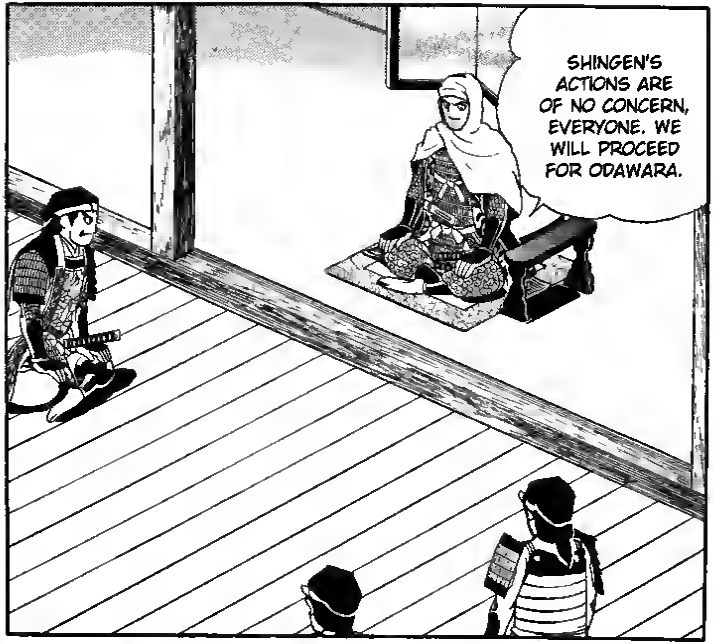

Shingen immediately led his men to Saku in Shinano.

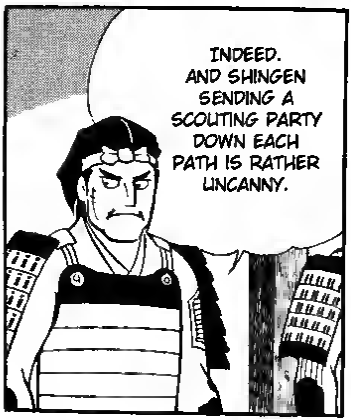

Umayabashi Castle
I SEE. SO SHINGEN HAS MARCHED UPON SHINANO.
YES, MY LORD.

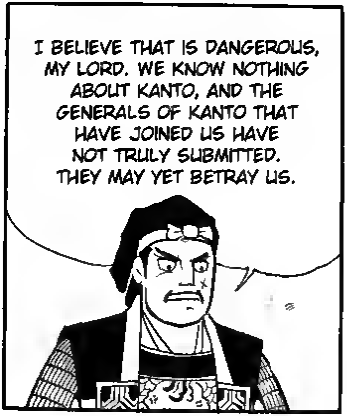
THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE PASSES FROM SHINANO TO KOZUKE BESIDES USUI PASS, INCLUDING SIDE ROADS. AND SHINGEN HAS SENT A SMALL SCOUTING PARTY DOWN EACH OF THESE PATHS.


HEHEHE... SO, SHINGEN'S DEVISED ANOTHER PLOY, HAS HE? BUT I, KAGETORA, WILL NOT BE FOOLED!

YES, MY LORD.
GOOD WORK, KAZAMA KANBEI. YOU MAY STAND DOWN.

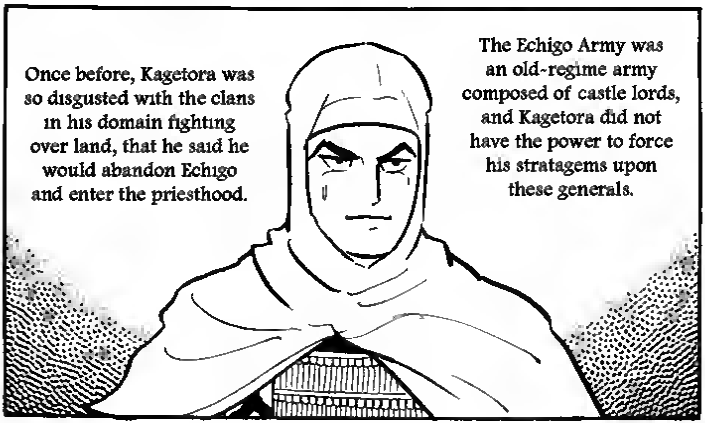

SHINGEN'S ACTIONS ARE OF NO CONCERN, EVERYONE. WE WILL PROCEED FOR ODAWARA.

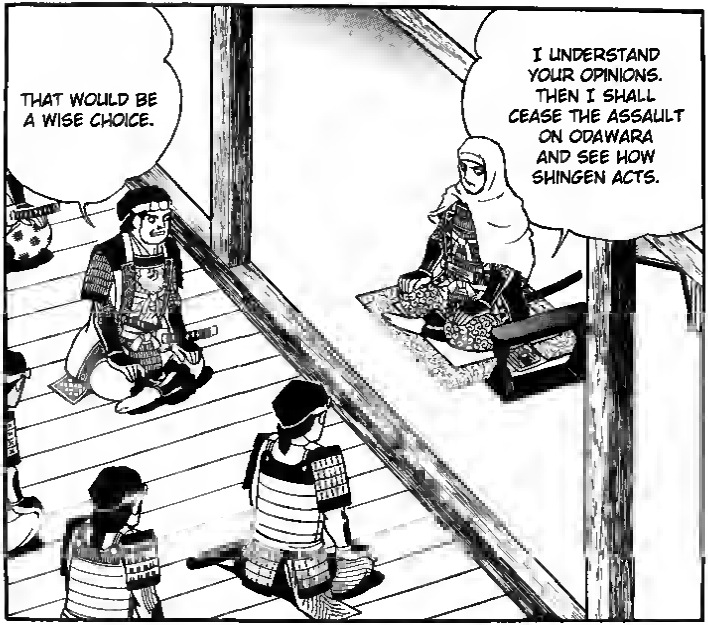

INDEED. AND SHINGEN SENDING A SCOUTING PARTY DOWN EACH PATH IS RATHER UNCANNY.

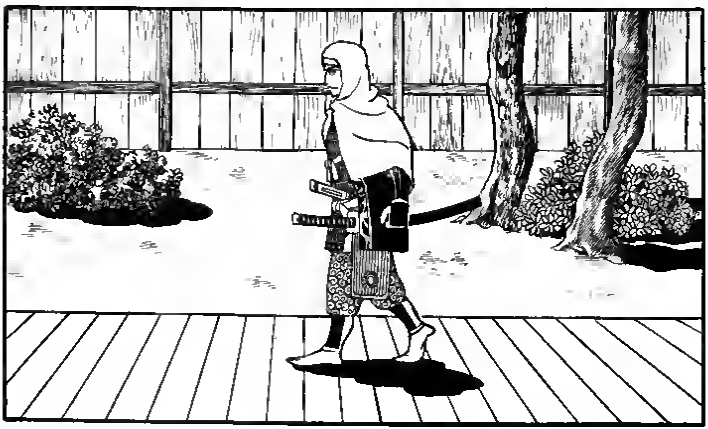

I BELIEVE THAT IS DANGEROUS, MY LORD. WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT KANTO, AND THE GENERALS OF KANTO THAT HAVE JOINED US HAVE NOT TRULY SUBMITTED. THEY MAY YET BETRAY US.

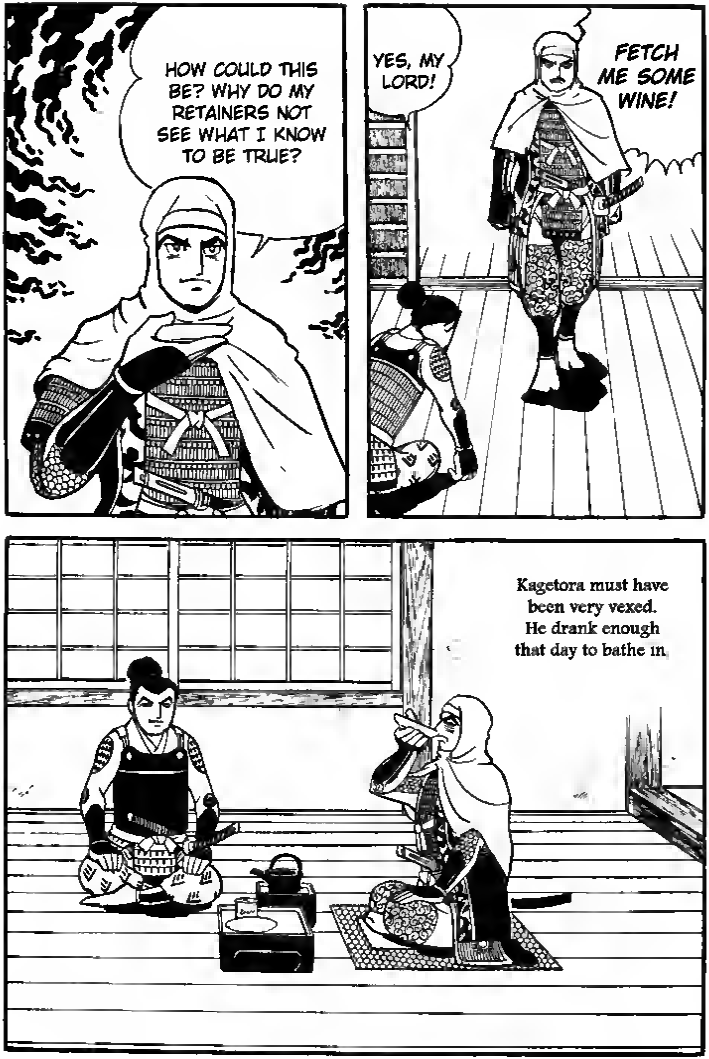
BELIEVE NEITHER OF THOSE. SHINGEN IS SIMPLY DOING THIS TO KEEP US IN CHECK. SHINGEN HIMSELF WILL NOT MOVE AN INCH.
ON THE SURFACE, SHINGEN APPEARS TO BE MOVING HIS FORCES INTO INNER SHINANO, BUT ON CLOSER LOOK, HE SEEMS TO BE PREPARING TO CROSS THE PASS INTO KANTO.
NO, MY LORD. WE CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL OF SHINGEN. WE SHOULD STOP HERE UNTIL SHINGEN ACTS.
HEAR ME! SHINGEN IS A MAN WHO NEVER FIGHTS WITHOUT A PROBABILITY OF VICTORY! SHINGEN DESIRES, IF POSSIBLE, THE MUTUAL DESTRUCTION OF US AND THE HOJO!
NOW IS OUR CHANCE! WE MUST ELIMINATE THE HOJO WHILE SHINGEN IS IMMOBILE, AND SLAY SHINGEN ON THE BACK SLASH!

But the generals opposed Kagetora's words.
.....
.....


Once before, Kagetora was so disgusted with the clans in his domain fighting over land, that he said he would abandon Echigo and enter the priesthood.
The Echigo Army was an old-regime army composed of castle lords, and Kagetora did not have the power to force his stratagems upon these generals.


I UNDERSTAND YOUR OPINIONS. THEN I SHALL CEASE THE ASSAULT ON ODAWARA AND SEE HOW SHINGEN ACTS.
THAT WOULD BE A WISE CHOICE.



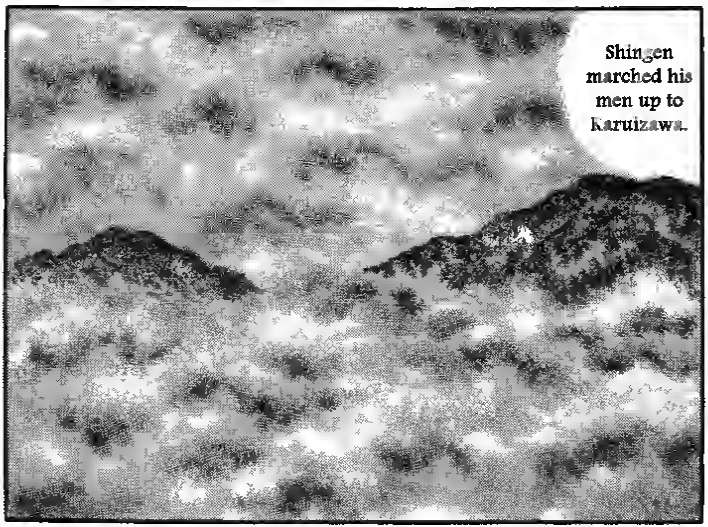

HOW COULD THIS BE? WHY DO MY RETAINERS NOT SEE WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE?
YES, MY LORD!
FETCH ME SOME WINE!
Kagetora must have been very vexed. He drank enough that day to bathe in.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 48

Chapter 49: Kansuke and Kanbei



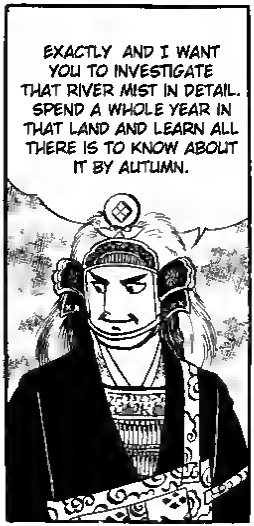
IS IT ALWAYS THIS MISTY HERE?
YES, MY LORD?
KARUIZAWA SADAMITSU!
THE MIST FALLS AND GATHERS...
THIS PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS. THE MIST FALLS AND GATHERS HERE.
HAHAHAHA! WHAT A FASCINATING ANSWER!

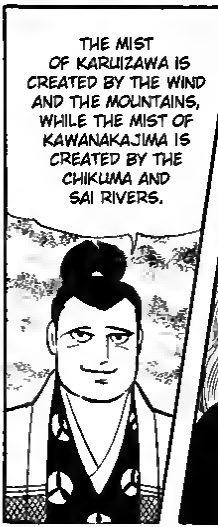
OH.
IT IS I, YAMAMOTO KANSUKE.
YES, MY LORD.
YOU MAY ALL STAND DOWN.

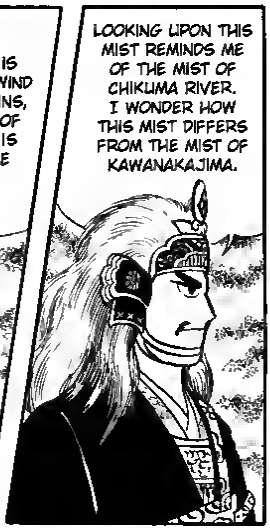
YES, MY LORD. HE HAS STOPPED IN UMAYABASHI AND IS TAKING HOSTAGES FROM THE GENERALS OF KANTO.
WHAT IS KAGETORA'S STATUS?
HIS GENERALS ALL OPPOSED AND DECIDED TO WAIT TILL WE MADE OUR MOVE.
HAS HE GIVEN UP ON MARCHING ON ODAWARA?
YES, MY LORD.
I SEE. THAT IS GOOD NEWS. IF KAGETORA HAD PROCEEDED TO BESIEGE ODAWARA CASTLE, THE CASTLE, WITH INADEQUATE DEFENSES, WOULD HAVE FALLEN QUICKLY, AND THE HOJO WOULD BE OBLITERATED. THEN KAGETORA WOULD HAVE SEIZED THE NATION.

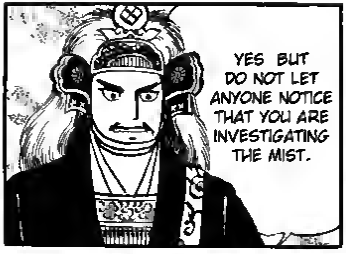
MIST ...?
NOW, I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE THIS MIST NEXT.

HEHEHE... I CAN ALMOST SEE KAGETORA'S VEXED FACE.


EXACTLY AND I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE THAT RIVER MIST IN DETAIL. SPEND A WHOLE YEAR IN THAT LAND AND LEARN ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT IT BY AUTUMN.

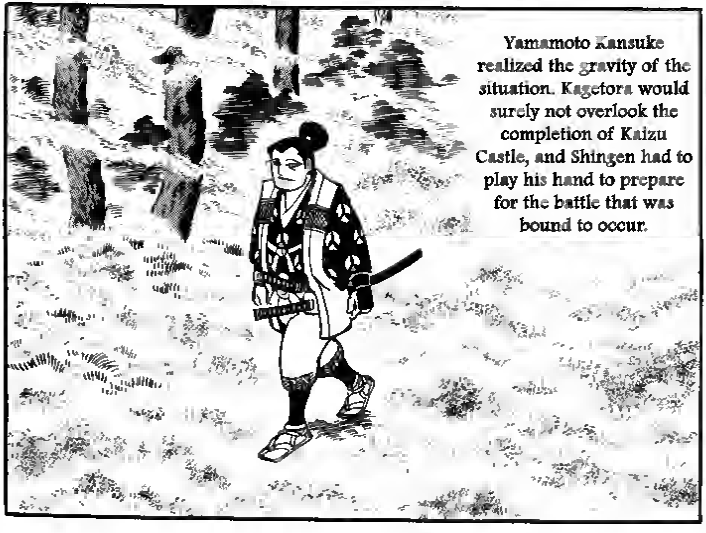

THE MIST OF KARUIZAWA IS CREATED BY THE WIND AND THE MOUNTAINS, WHILE THE MIST OF KAWANAKAJIMA IS CREATED BY THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVERS.

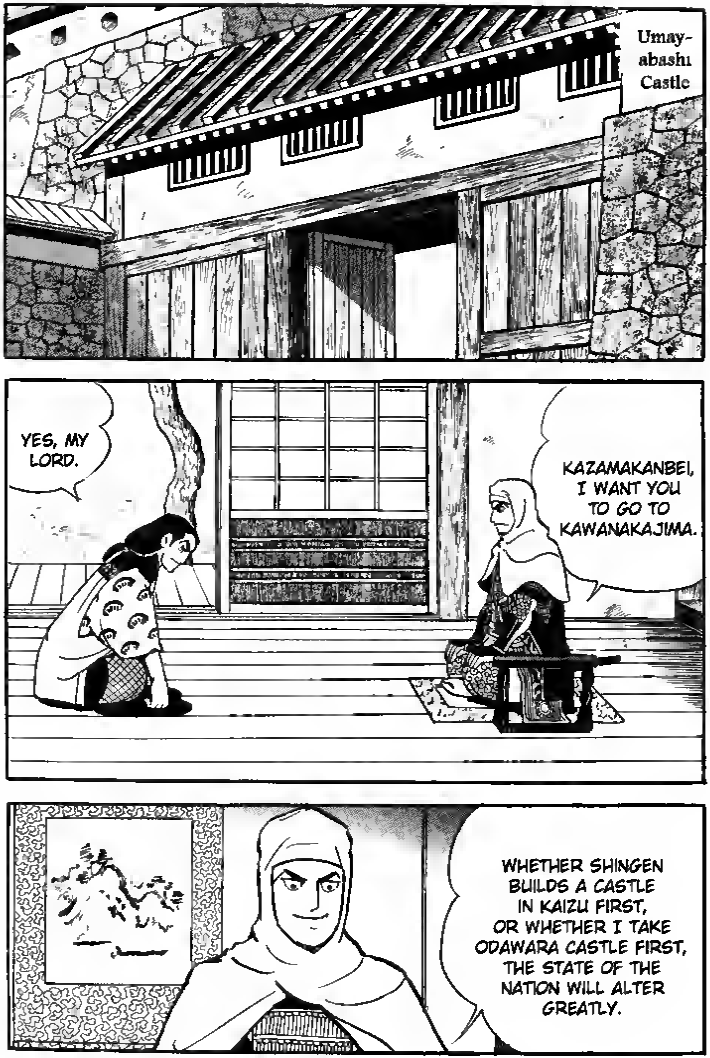

LOOKING UPON THIS MIST REMINDS ME OF THE MIST OF CHIKUMA RIVER. I WONDER HOW THIS MIST DIFFERS FROM THE MIST OF KAWANAKAJIMA.


YES BUT DO NOT LET ANYONE NOTICE THAT YOU ARE INVESTIGATING THE MIST.

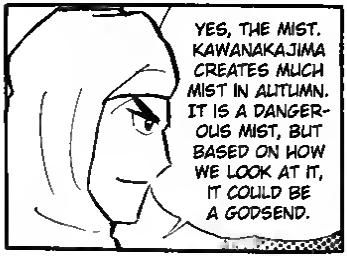
A WHOLE YEAR..?

PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
THEN BY YOUR LEAVE

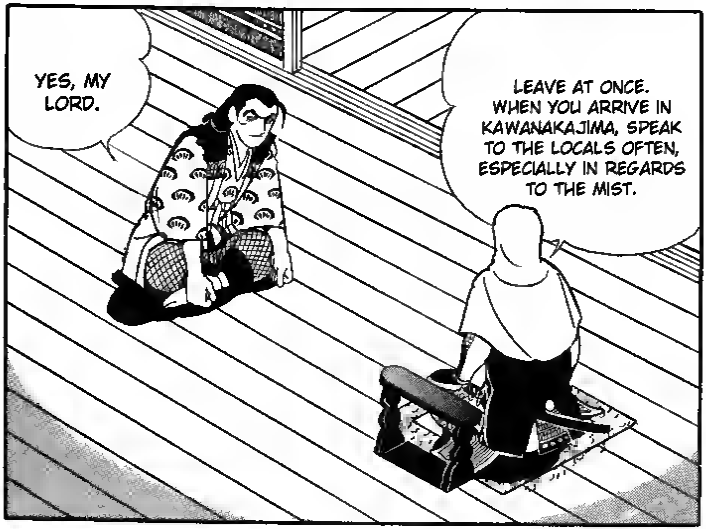

Yamamoto Kansuke realized the gravity of the situation. Kagetora would surely not overlook the completion of Kaizu Castle, and Shingen had to play his hand to prepare for the battle that was bound to occur.

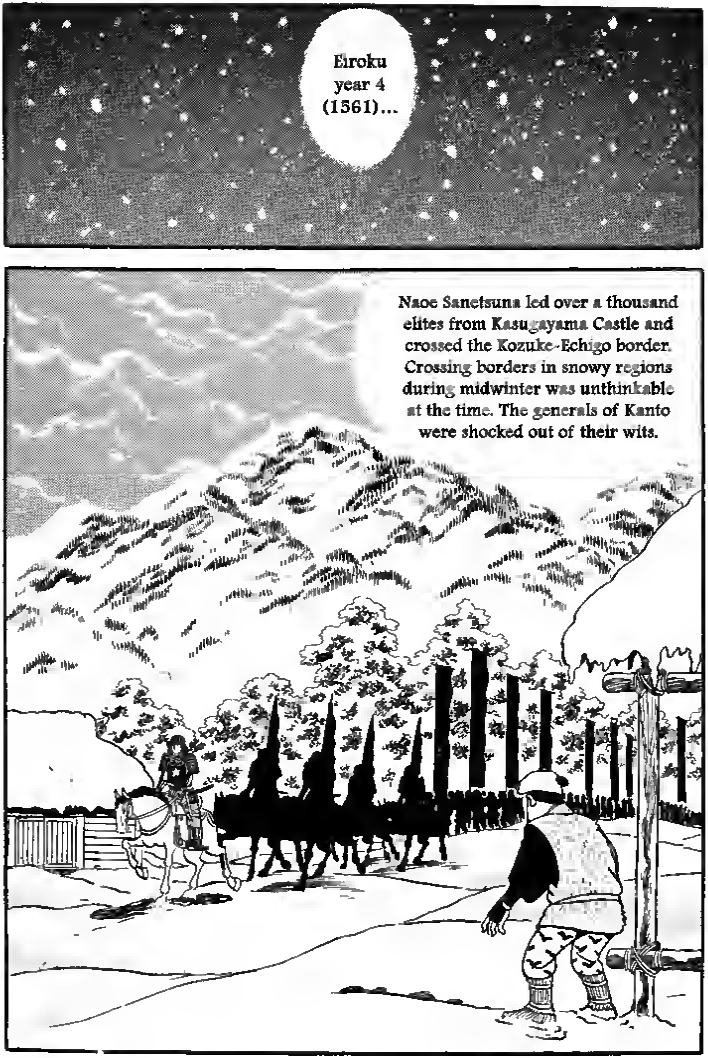

Umayabashi Castle
KAZAMAKANBEI, I WANT YOU TO GO TO KAWANAKAJIMA.
YES, MY LORD.
WHETHER SHINGEN BUILDS A CASTLE IN KAIZU FIRST, OR WHETHER I TAKE ODAWARA CASTLE FIRST, THE STATE OF THE NATION WILL ALTER GREATLY.

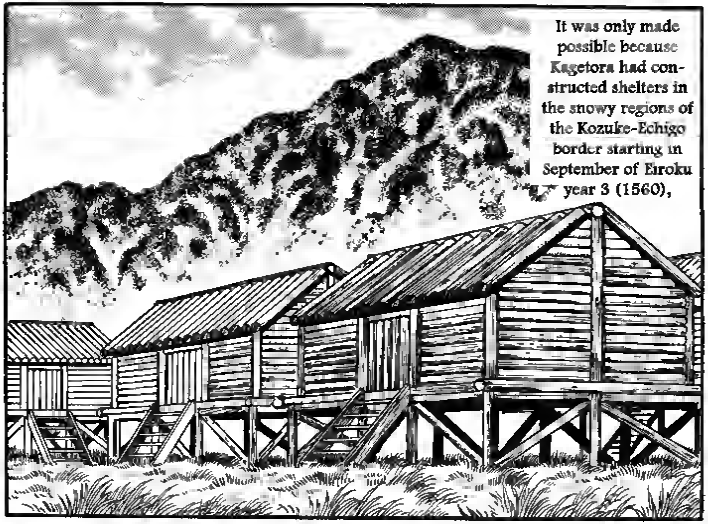
IN REGARD TO THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVERS, INVESTIGATE EVERYTHING FROM THE DEPTH AND TEMPERATURE OF THE RIVERS TO THEIR FLOODING AND SUBSIDING SEASONS AND EVEN THE MIST IT PRODUCES.
I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE THE STATE OF KAIZU CASTLE, AS WELL AS THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN. DO NOT OVERLOOK A SINGLE CEDAR OR MILLET FIELD.

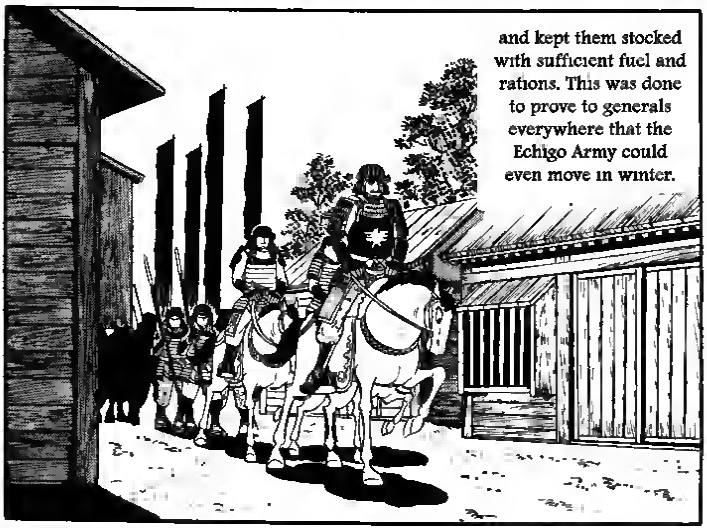

YES, THE MIST. KAWANAKAJIMA CREATES MUCH MIST IN AUTUMN. IT IS A DANGEROUS MIST, BUT BASED ON HOW WE LOOK AT IT, IT COULD BE A GODSEND.

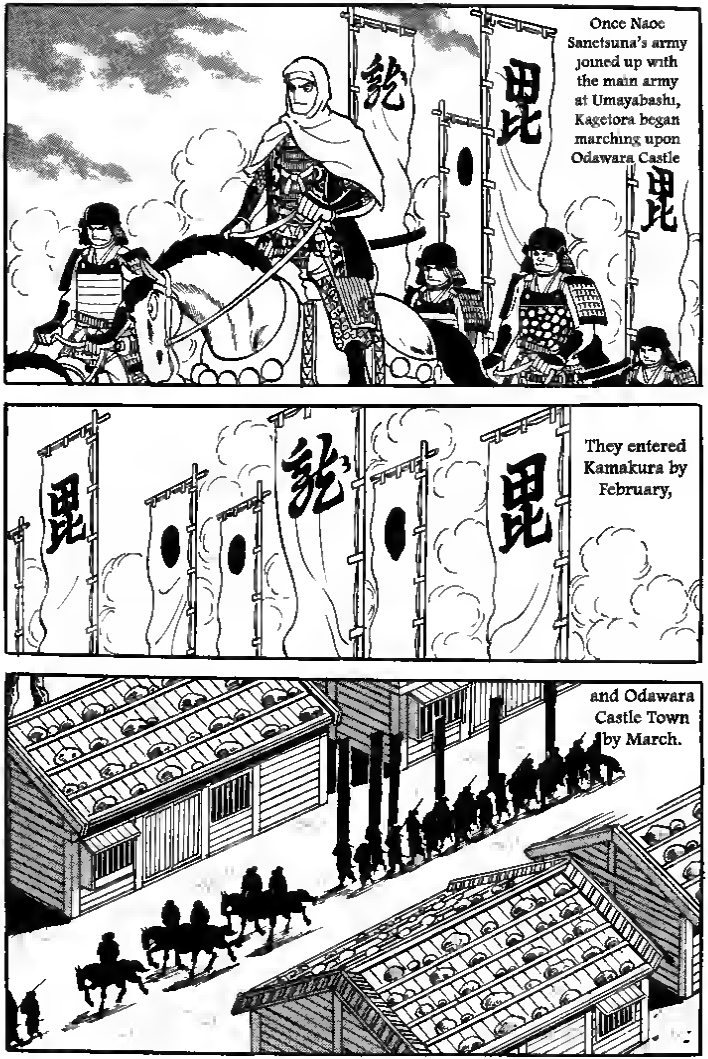
THE MIST, YOU SAY?

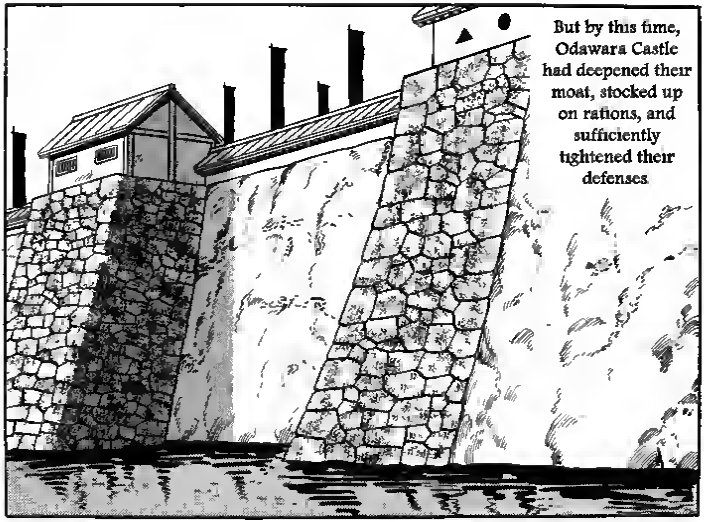

YES, MY LORD.
LEAVE AT ONCE. WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN KAWANAKAJIMA, SPEAK TO THE LOCALS OFTEN, ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO THE MIST.

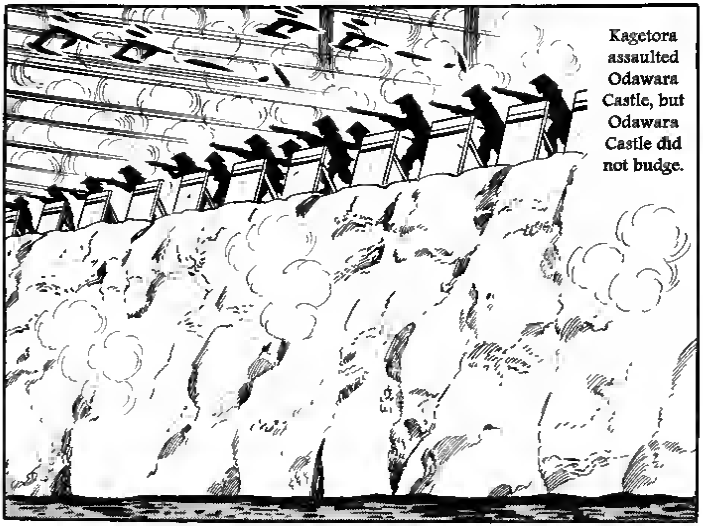

Eiroku
year 4
(1561)...
Naoe Sanetsuna led over a thousand elites from Kasugayama Castle and crossed the Kozuke-Echigo border. Crossing borders in snowy regions during midwinter was unthinkable at the time. The generals of Kanto were shocked out of their wits.

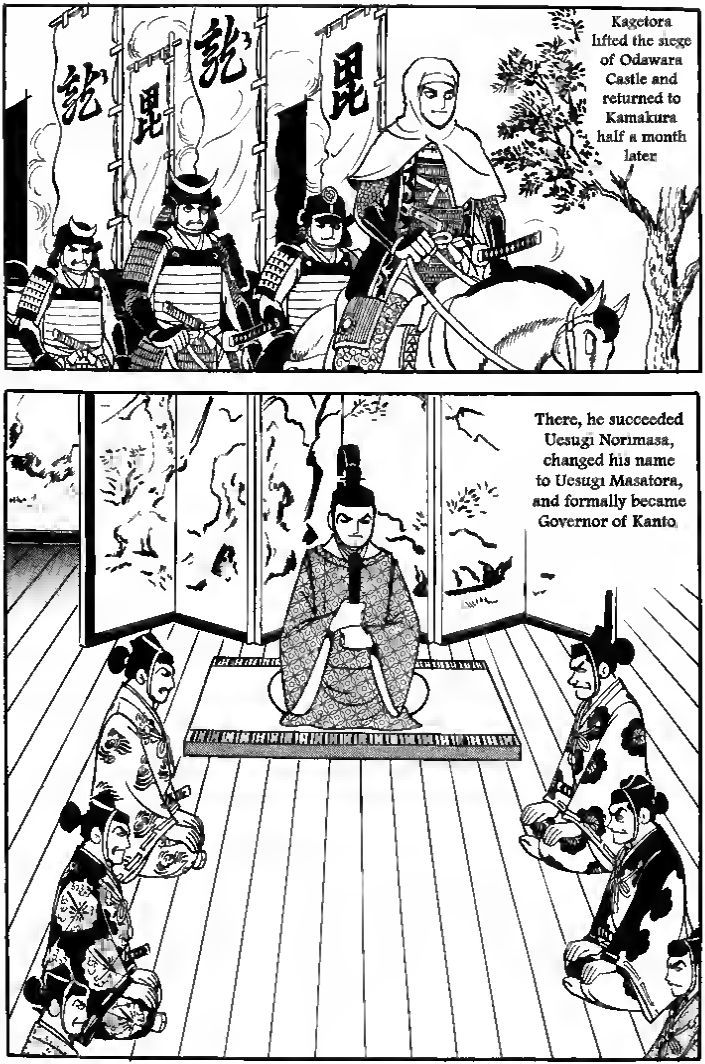

It was only made possible because Kagetora had constructed shelters in the snowy regions of the Kozuke-Echigo border starting in September of Eiroku year 3 (1560),


and kept them stocked with sufficient fuel and rations. This was done to prove to generals everywhere that the Echigo Army could even move in winter.


Once Naoe Sanetsuna's army joined up with the main army at Umayabashi, Kagetora began marching upon Odawara Castle
They entered Kamakura by February,
and Odawara Castle Town by March.

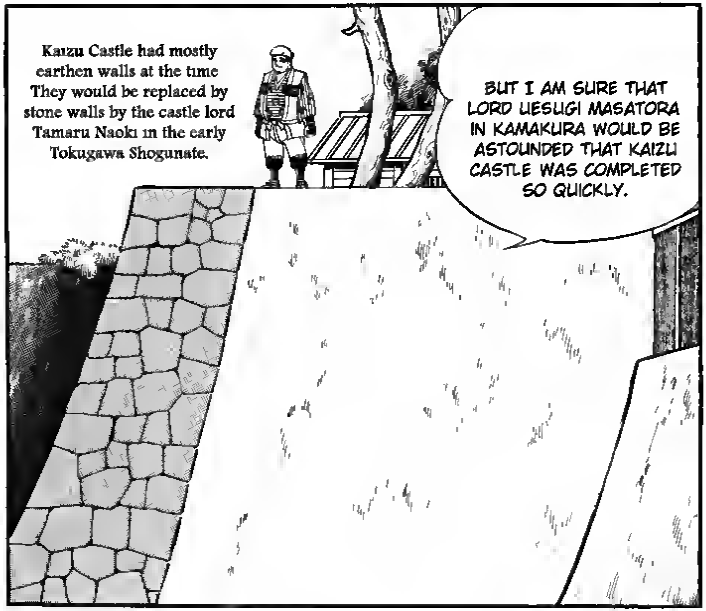

But by this time, Odawara Castle had deepened their moat, stocked up on rations, and sufficiently tightened their defenses.


Kagetora assaulted Odawara Castle, but Odawara Castle did not budge.

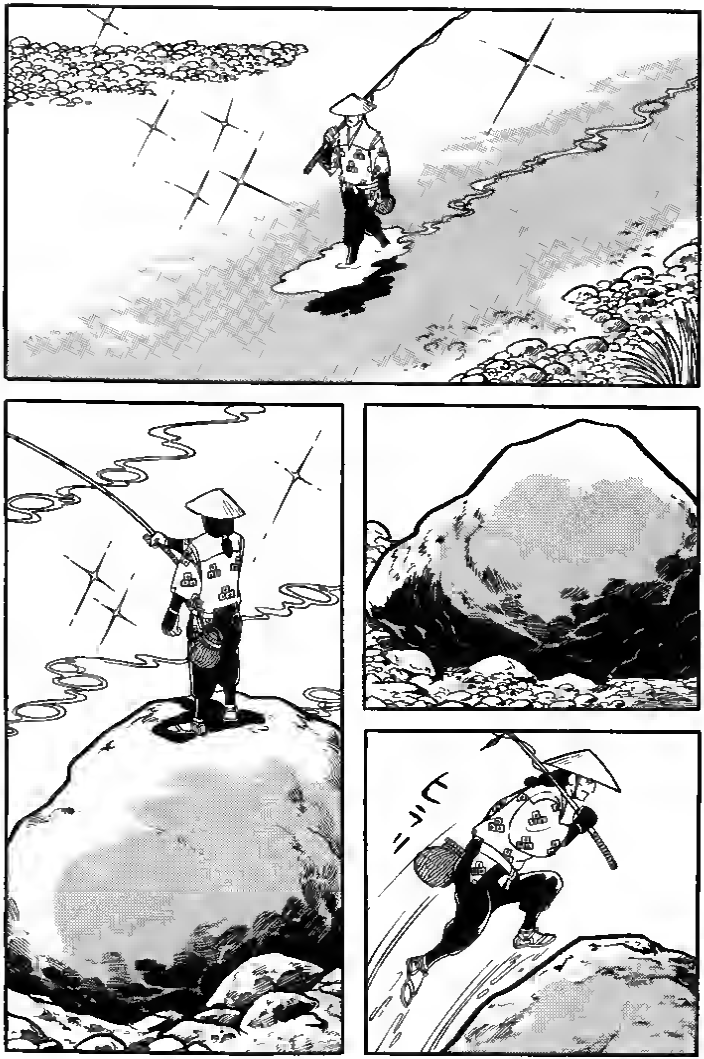

Kagetora lifted the siege of Odawara Castle and returned to Kamakura half a month later
There, he succeeded Uesugi Norimasa, changed his name to Uesugi Masatora, and formally became Governor of Kanto

IT'S FINALLY COMPLETE. BUT MASATORA WILL NOT REMAIN IDLE WITH THIS CASTLE COMPLETE.

PLAINS CASTLES ARE MORE CONVENIENT FOR TOWN-BUILDING. WHICH WOULD MEAN THE MASTER IS CONFIDENT IN HIS ABILITY TO OCCUPY KAWANAKAJIMA COMPLETELY.
THIS IS THE THIRD PLAINS CASTLE, FOLLOWING KOMURO CASTLE AND FUKASHI CASTLE.


Kaizu Castle had mostly earthen walls at the time They would be replaced by stone walls by the castle lord Tamaru Naoki in the early Tokugawa Shogunate.
BUT I AM SURE THAT LORD UESUGI MASATORA IN KAMAKURA WOULD BE ASTOUNDED THAT KAIZU CASTLE WAS COMPLETED SO QUICKLY.

HUH?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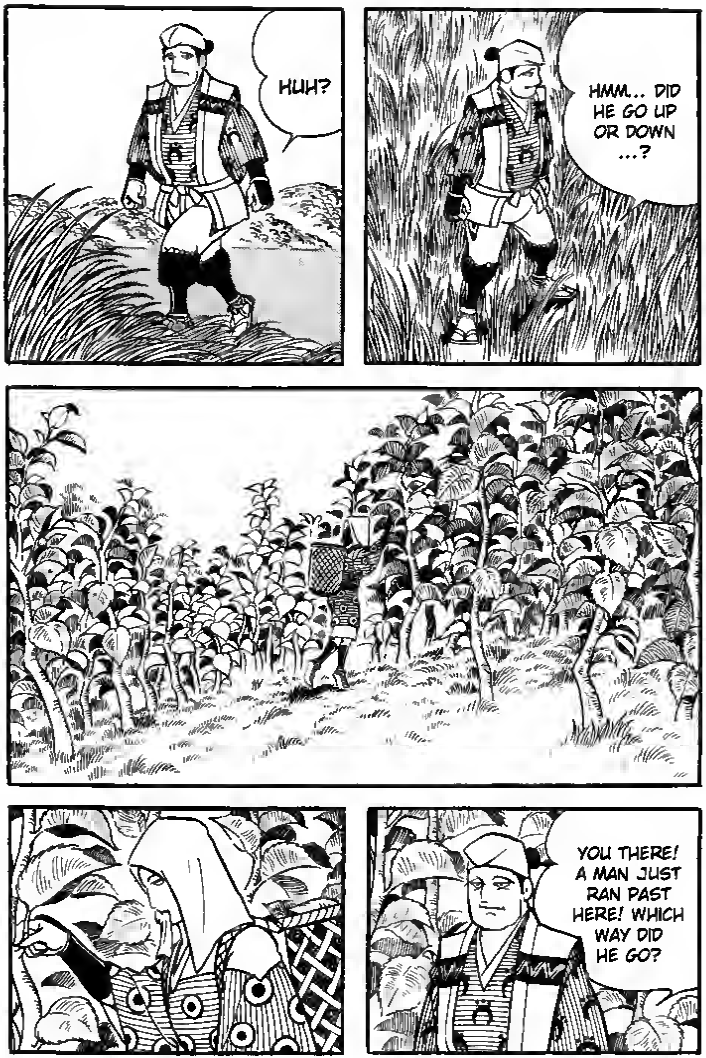
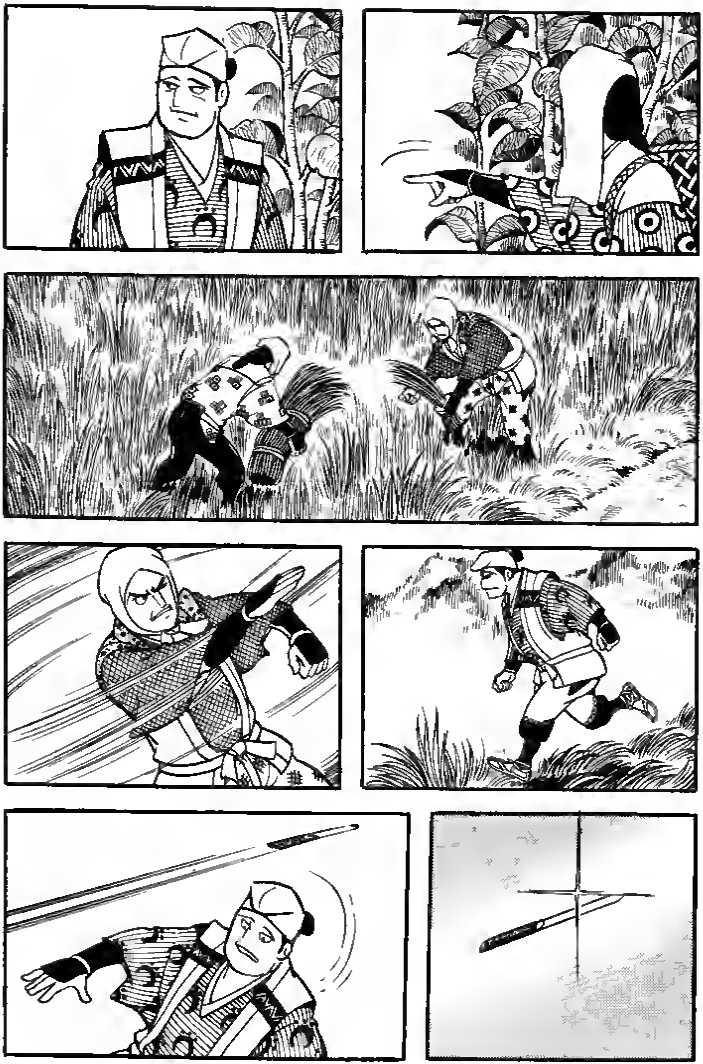
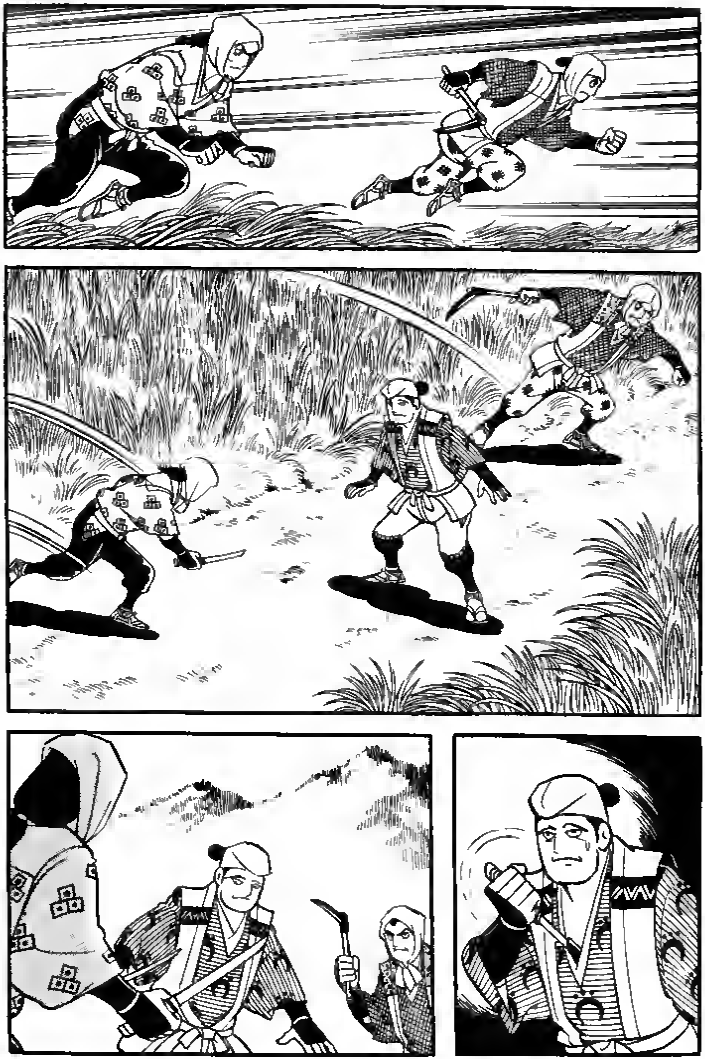
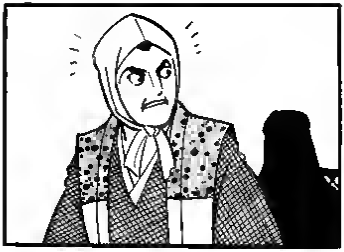
WHAT ASTONISHING AGILITY... HE IS NO ORDINARY MAN...

HE WAS IN WATER. HIS SANDALS SHOULD BE WET.
FOUND IT!

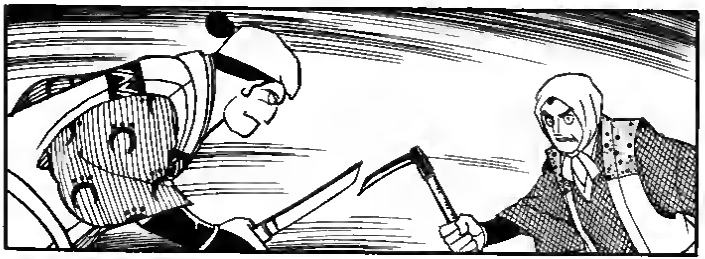

HUH?
HMM... DID HE GO UP OR DOWN ...?
YOU THERE! A MAN JUST RAN PAST HERE! WHICH WAY DID HE GO?







NOW!



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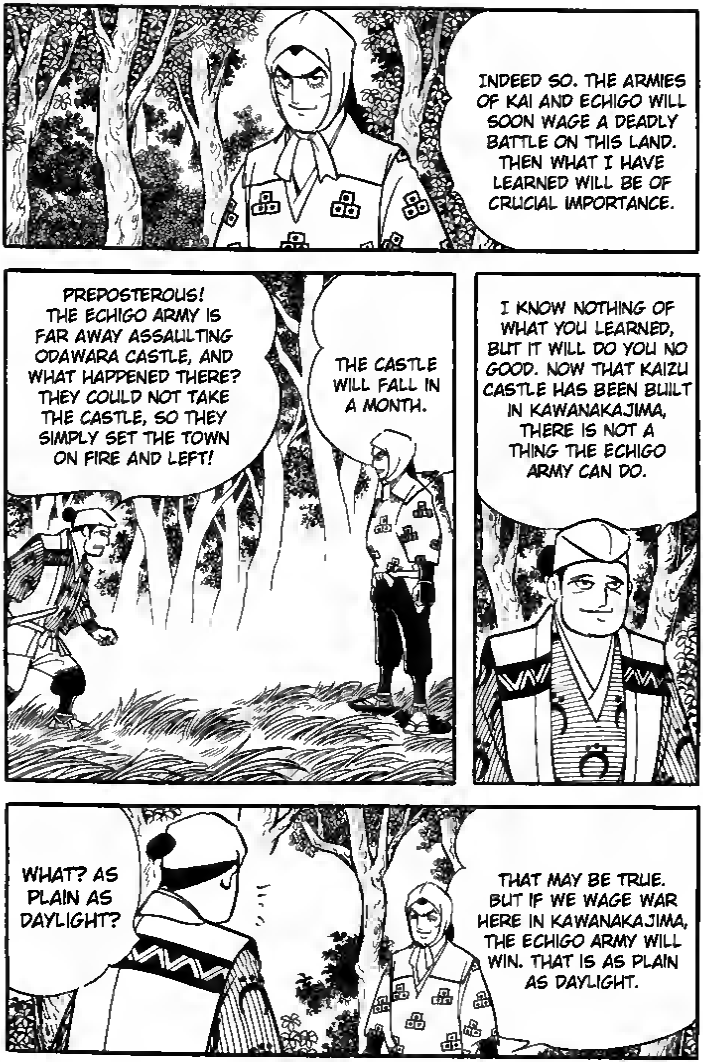
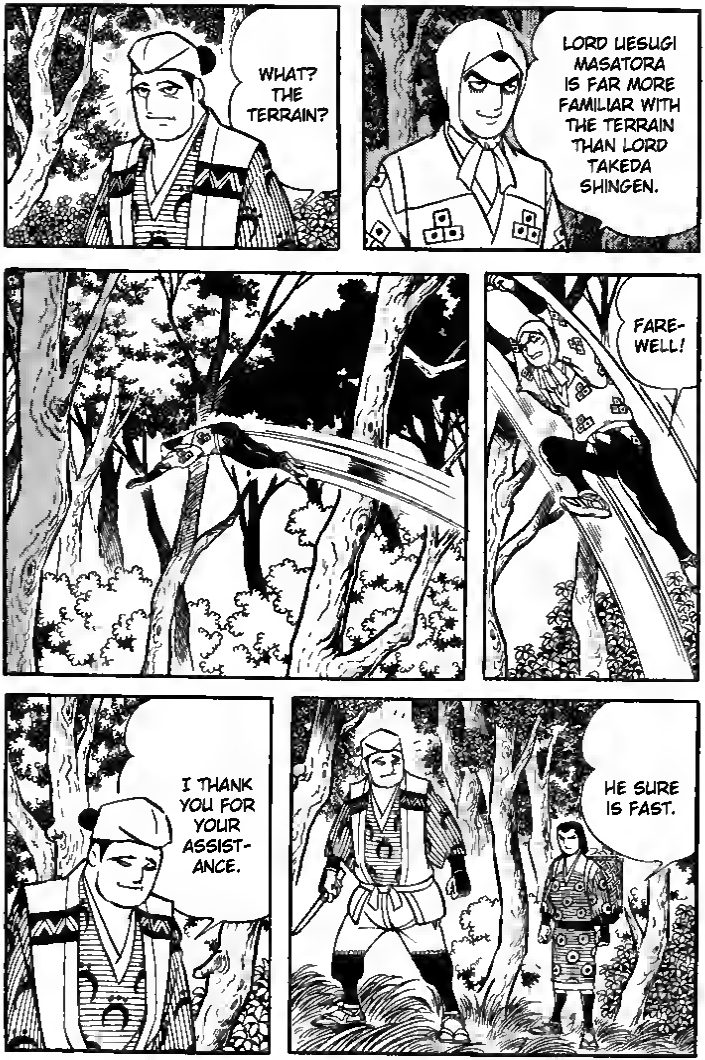
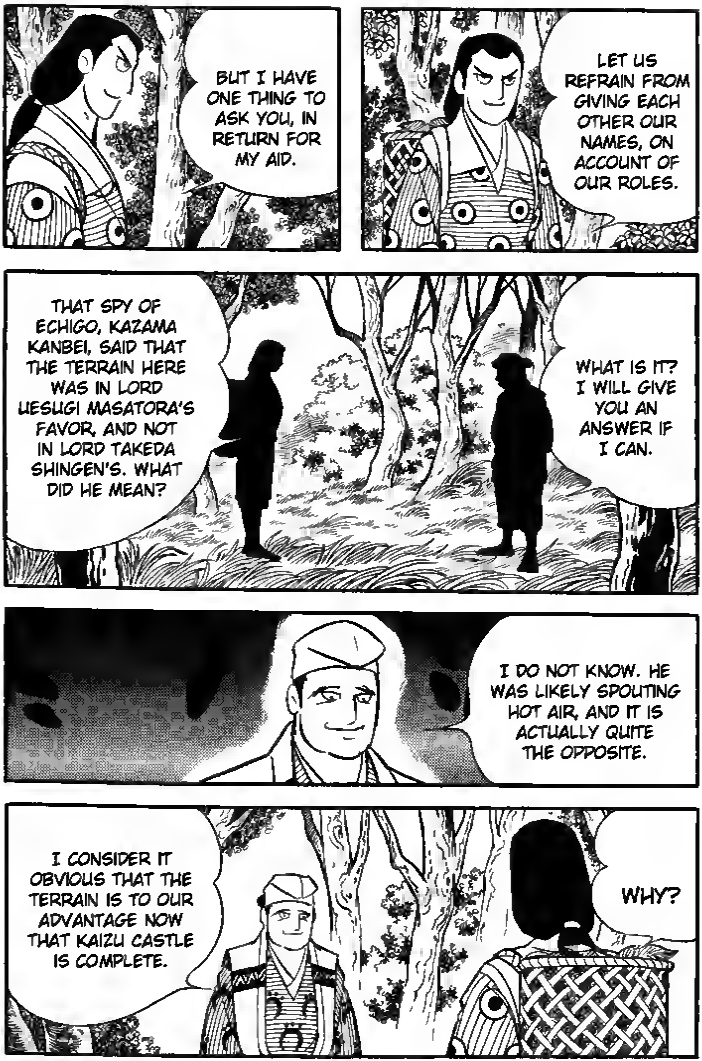
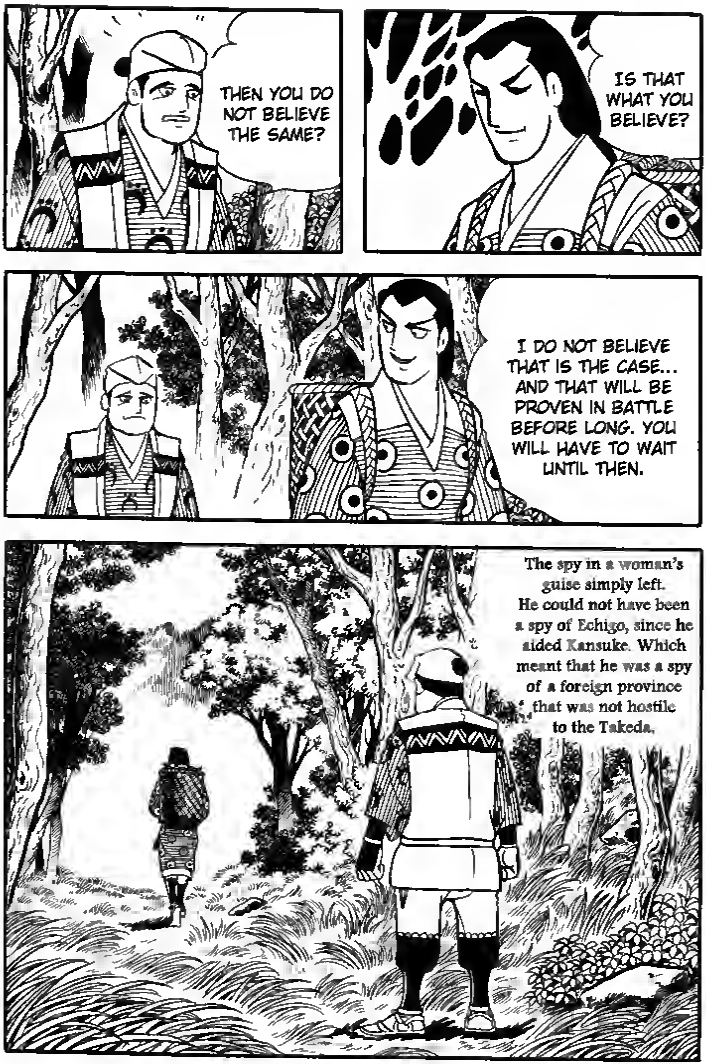
A MAN ...?

AM I RIGHT IN PRESUMING YOU ARE YAMAMOTO KANSUKE OF KAI?
I HAVE HEARD MUCH OF KAZAMA KANBEI OF ECHIGO. ARE YOU KANBEI?
CAN YOU NOT WAIT TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH?
IF YOU ARE SLAIN NOW, YOUR EFFORTS IN RESEARCHING THE CHIKUMA RIVER WILL ALL GO TO WASTE.


INDEED SO. THE ARMIES OF KAI AND ECHIGO WILL SOON WAGE A DEADLY BATTLE ON THIS LAND. THEN WHAT I HAVE LEARNED WILL BE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE.
PREPOSTEROUS! THE ECHIGO ARMY IS FAR AWAY ASSAULTING ODAWARA CASTLE, AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE? THEY COULD NOT TAKE THE CASTLE, SO THEY SIMPLY SET THE TOWN ON FIRE AND LEFT!
THE CASTLE WILL FALL IN A MONTH.
I KNOW NOTHING OF WHAT YOU LEARNED, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. NOW THAT KAIZU CASTLE HAS BEEN BUILT IN KAWANAKAJIMA, THERE IS NOT A THING THE ECHIGO ARMY CAN DO.
WHAT? AS PLAIN AS DAYLIGHT?
...
THAT MAY BE TRUE. BUT IF WE WAGE WAR HERE IN KAWANAKAJIMA, THE ECHIGO ARMY WILL WIN. THAT IS AS PLAIN AS DAYLIGHT.


WHAT? THE TERRAIN?
LORD UESUGI MASATORA IS FAR MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN THAN LORD TAKEDA SHINGEN.
FARE-WELL!
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSIST-ANCE.
HE SURE IS FAST.


BUT I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK YOU, IN RETURN FOR MY AID.
LET US REFRAIN FROM GIVING EACH OTHER OUR NAMES, ON ACCOUNT OF OUR ROLES.
THAT SPY OF ECHIGO, KAZAMA KANBEI, SAID THAT THE TERRAIN HERE WAS IN LORD UESUGI MASATORA'S FAVOR, AND NOT IN LORD TAKEDA SHINGEN'S. WHAT DID HE MEAN?
WHAT IS IT? I WILL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER IF I CAN.
I DO NOT KNOW. HE WAS LIKELY SPOUTING HOT AIR, AND IT IS ACTUALLY QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
I CONSIDER IT OBVIOUS THAT THE TERRAIN IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE NOW THAT KAIZU CASTLE IS COMPLETE.
WHY?


THEN YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THE SAME?
IS THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE?
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS THE CASE... AND THAT WILL BE PROVEN IN BATTLE BEFORE LONG. YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN.
The spy in a woman's guise simply left. He could not have been a spy of Echigo, since he aided Kansuke. Which meant that he was a spy of a foreign province that was not hostile to the Takeda.

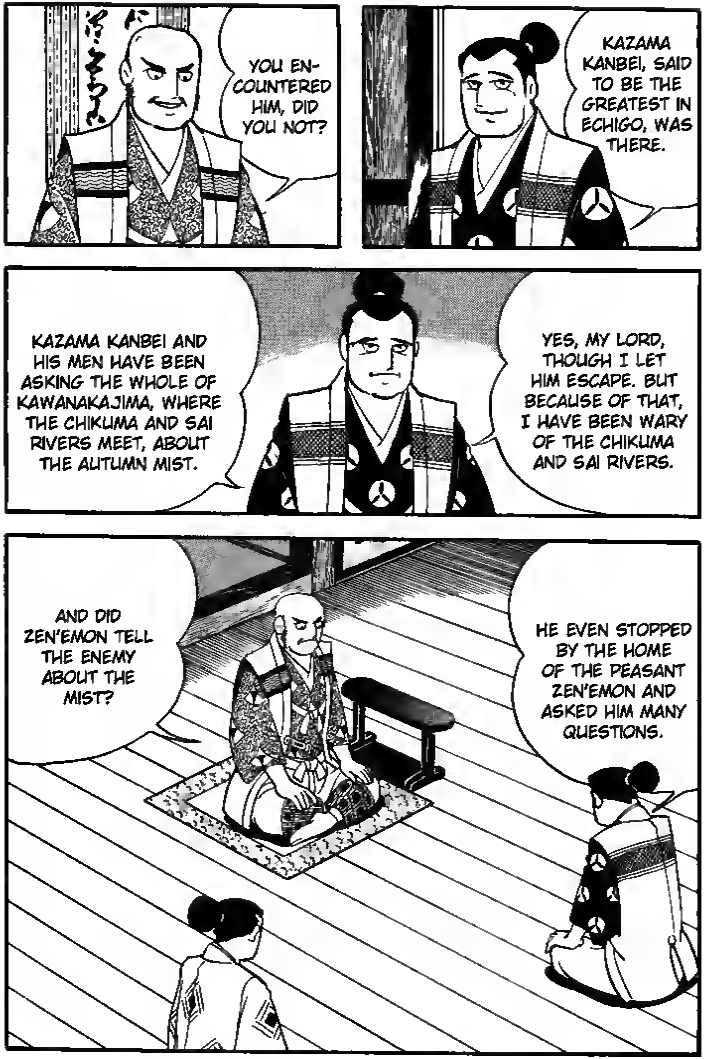
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

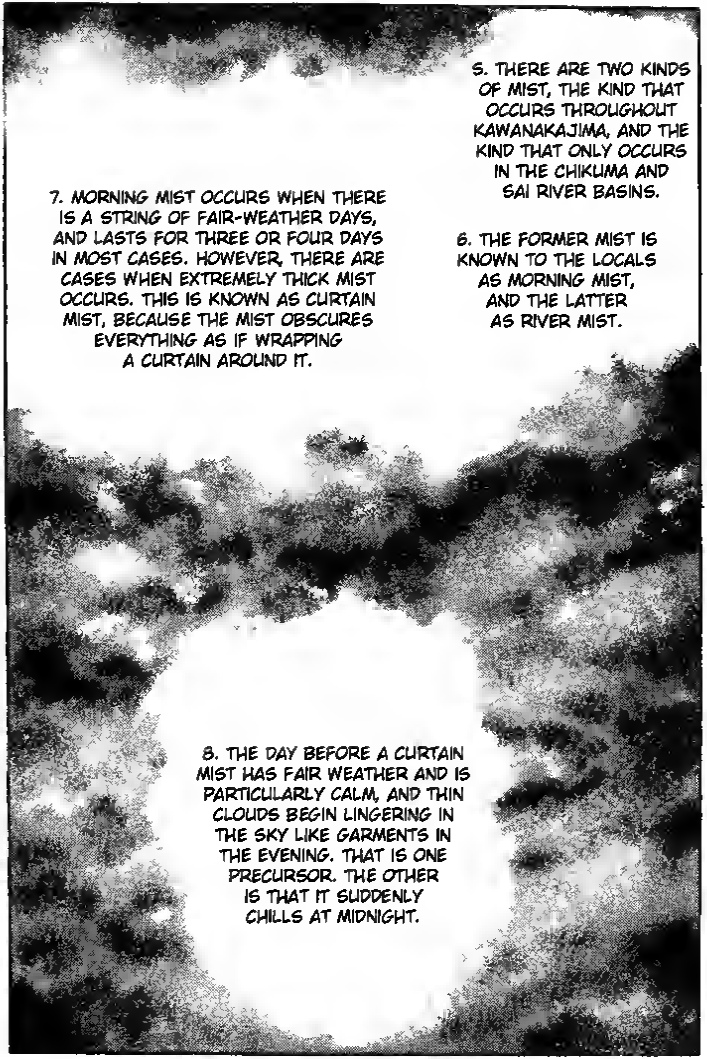
CHAPTER 49

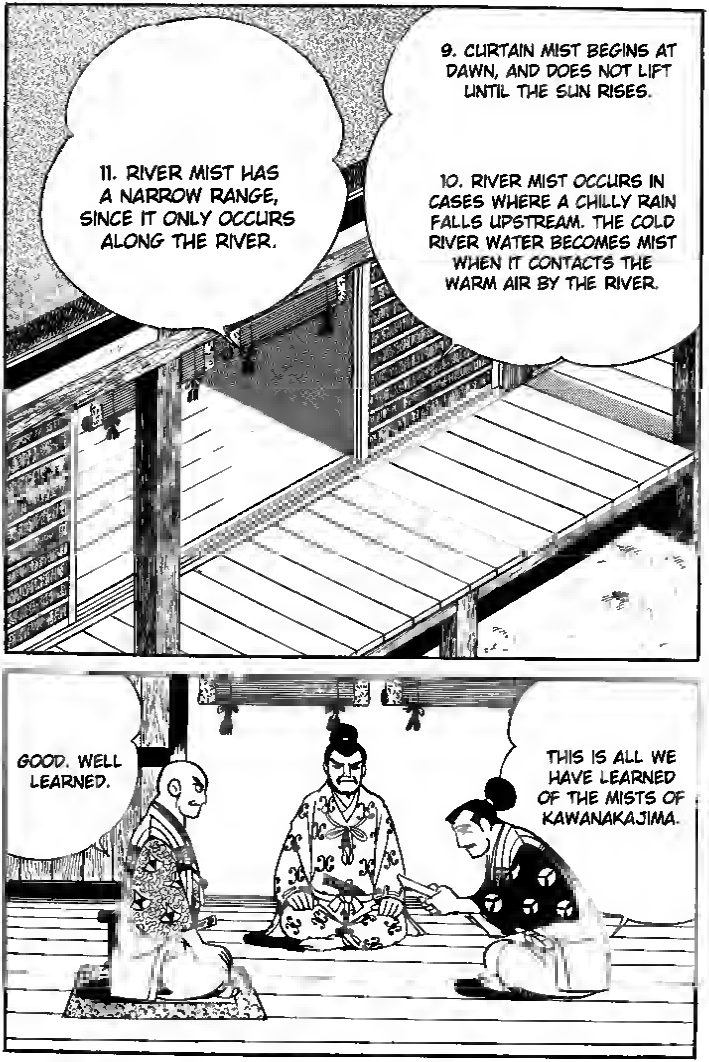
Chapter 50: Kansuke's Resolve

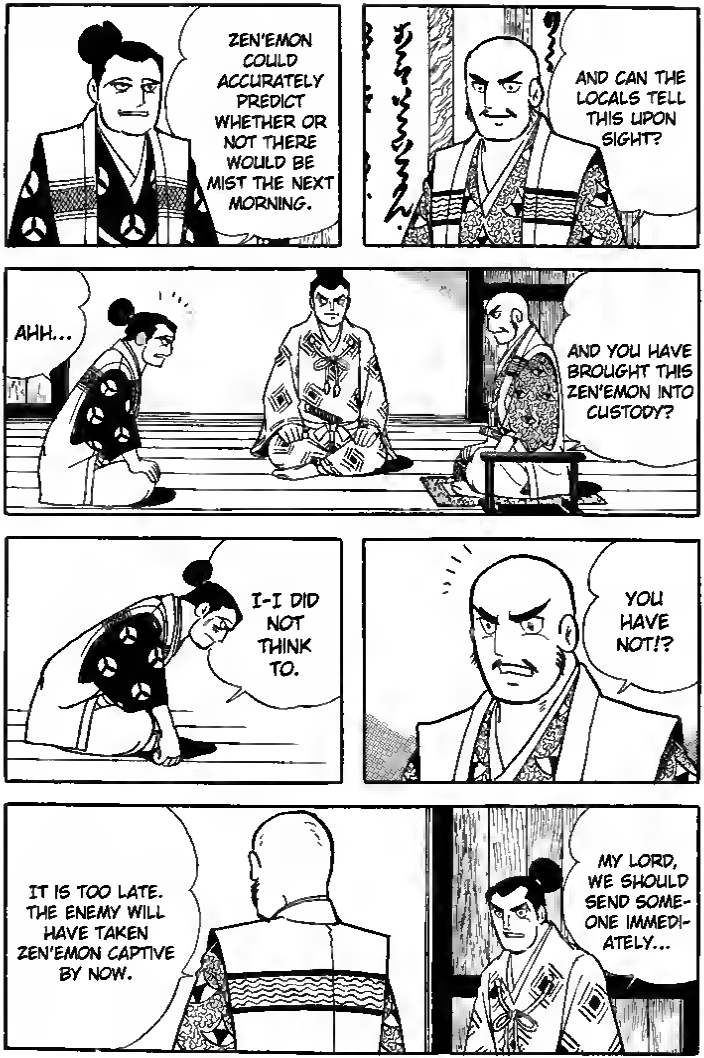
OH, KANSUKE! EXCELLENT WORK!
THE LOCALS HAVE BEGUN TO THINK OF A PLACE TO ESCAPE, THINKING THAT ECHIGO WILL NOT STAND IDLE AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A GREAT CASTLE.
SO WHAT WAS THE CONDITION OF KAWANA-KAJIMA?
NATURALLY. MASATORA MUST HAVE SENT BEFITTING SPIES AS WELL. ANY GUESSES AS TO WHOM?
AND I SAW WHAT I ASSUME TO BE SPIES WITH ECHIGO ACCENTS LOITERING AROUND HERE AND THERE IN KAWANAKAJIMA.


YOU ENCOUNTERED HIM, DID YOU NOT?
KAZAMA KANBEI, SAID TO BE THE GREATEST IN ECHIGO, WAS THERE.
KAZAMA KANBEI AND HIS MEN HAVE BEEN ASKING THE WHOLE OF KAWANAKAJIMA, WHERE THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVERS MEET, ABOUT THE AUTUMN MIST.
YES, MY LORD, THOUGH I LET HIM ESCAPE. BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE BEEN WARY OF THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVERS.
AND DID ZEN'EMON TELL THE ENEMY ABOUT THE MIST?
HE EVEN STOPPED BY THE HOME OF THE PEASANT ZEN'EMON AND ASKED HIM MANY QUESTIONS.

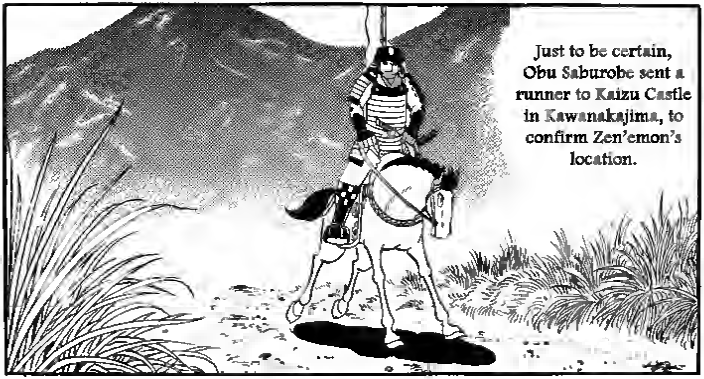
I PRESUME THAT ZEN'EMON KNEW WHO HE WAS DEALING WITH. HE COULD NOT SAY HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE LOCAL MISTS WHEN ASKED.
AND SINCE THERE ARE MANY PEASANTS IN THE REGION WHO DO NOT WISH TO SIDE WITH EITHER THE KAI OR ECHIGO ARMY...
SO WILL YOU GIVE ME A SUMMARY OF WHAT ZEN'EMON SAID ABOUT THE MISTS?
I WILL READ YOU A SUMMARY OF NOT ONLY WHAT ZEN'EMON SAID, BUT WHAT ALL THE PEASANTS OF THE REGION HAVE SAID.
1. THE MIST OCCURS OFTEN DURING SPRING AND AUTUMN.
2. THE MIST OCCURS MORE FREQUENTLY, AND OVER A WIDER RANGE, IN AUTUMN THAN IN SPRING.
3. THE MIST OCCURS FROM MID-SEPTEMBER (OLD RECKONING) TO MID-OCTOBER.
4. THE THICKEST MIST IS IN THE TRIANGULAR REGION OF KAWANAKAJIMA, INTERPOSED BETWEEN THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVERS.

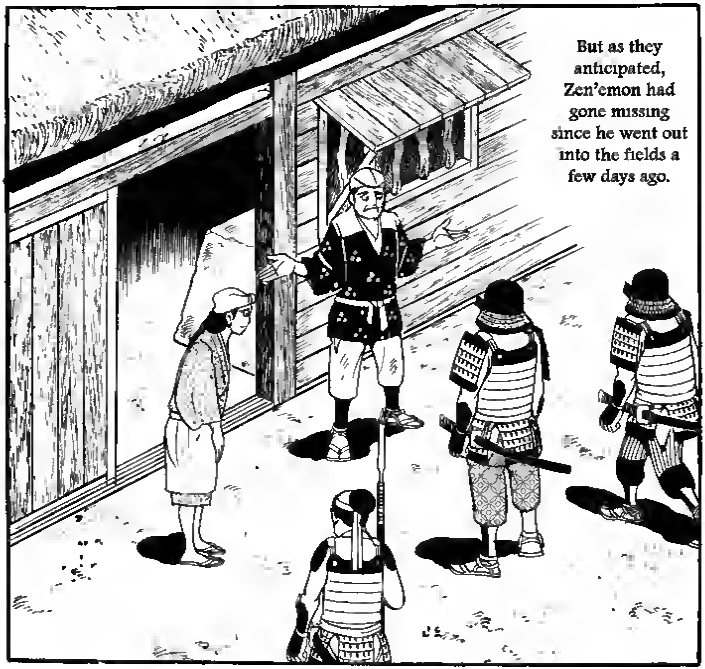

5. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MIST, THE KIND THAT OCCURS THROUGHOUT KAWANAKAJIMA, AND THE KIND THAT ONLY OCCURS IN THE CHIKUMA AND SAI RIVER BASINS.
6. THE FORMER MIST IS KNOWN TO THE LOCALS AS MORNING MIST, AND THE LATTER AS RIVER MIST.
7. MORNING MIST OCCURS WHEN THERE IS A STRING OF FAIR-WEATHER DAYS, AND LASTS FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN MOST CASES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CASES WHEN EXTREMELY THICK MIST OCCURS. THIS IS KNOWN AS CURTAIN MIST, BECAUSE THE MIST OBSCURES EVERYTHING AS IF WRAPPING A CURTAIN AROUND IT.
8. THE DAY BEFORE A CURTAIN MIST HAS FAIR WEATHER AND IS PARTICULARLY CALM, AND THIN CLOUDS BEGIN LINGERING IN THE SKY LIKE GARMENTS IN THE EVENING. THAT IS ONE PRECURSOR. THE OTHER IS THAT IT SUDDENLY CHILLS AT MIDNIGHT.

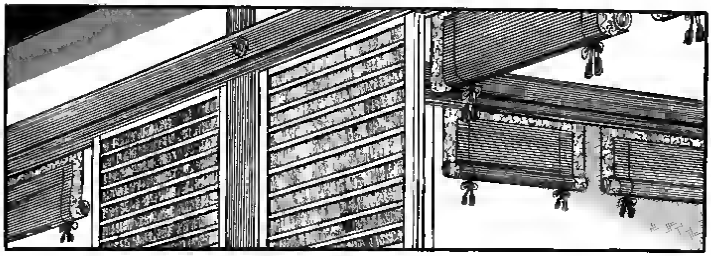

9. CURTAIN MIST BEGINS AT DAWN, AND DOES NOT LIFT UNTIL THE SUN RISES.
10. RIVER MIST OCCURS IN CASES WHERE A CHILLY RAIN FALLS UPSTREAM. THE COLD RIVER WATER BECOMES MIST WHEN IT CONTACTS THE WARM AIR BY THE RIVER.
11. RIVER MIST HAS A NARROW RANGE, SINCE IT ONLY OCCURS ALONG THE RIVER.
GOOD. WELL LEARNED.
THIS IS ALL WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE MISTS OF KAWANAKAJIMA.


ZEN'EMON COULD ACCURATELY PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE MIST THE NEXT MORNING.
AND CAN THE LOCALS TELL THIS UPON SIGHT?
AHH...
AND YOU HAVE BROUGHT THIS ZEN'EMON INTO CUSTODY?
I-I DID NOT THINK TO.
YOU HAVE NOT!?
IT IS TOO LATE. THE ENEMY WILL HAVE TAKEN ZEN'EMON CAPTIVE BY NOW.
MY LORD, WE SHOULD SEND SOME-ONE IMMEDI-ATELY...

YES, MY LORD.
YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL. YOU MAY REST FOR A WHILE.
IF ZEN'EMON'S CAPTURE RESULTS UNFAVORABLY FOR MY ALLIES, NOT EVEN MY DEATH COULD MAKE UP FOR IT!
HOW COULD I HAVE DONE SOMETHING SO FOOLISH?

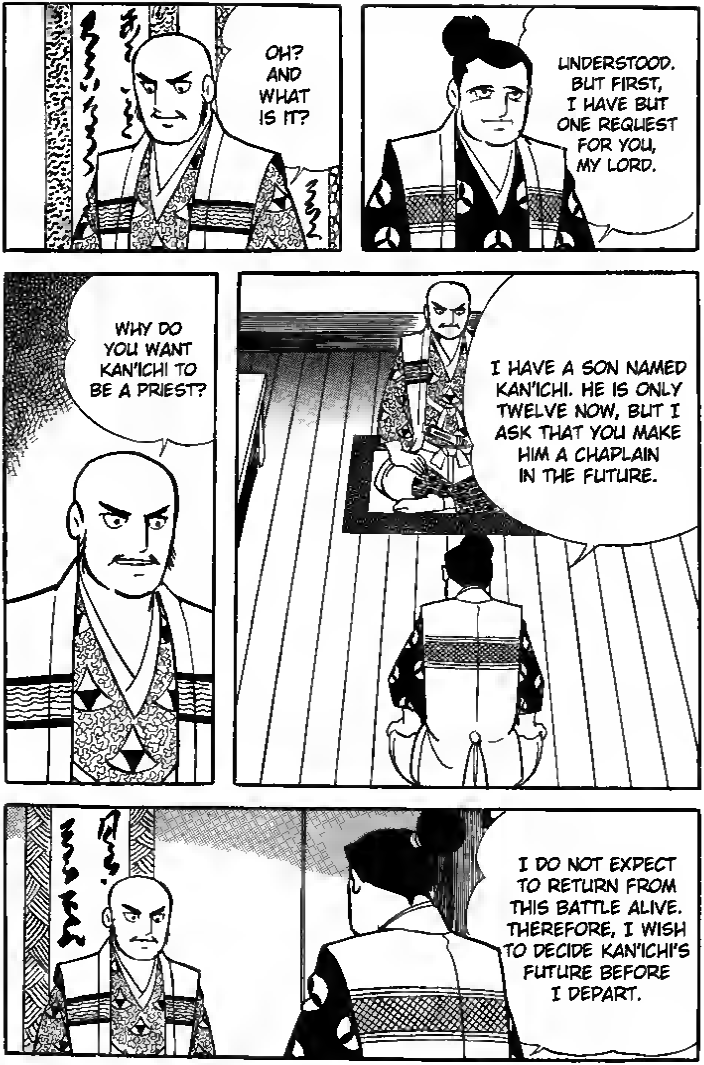

Just to be certain, Obu Saburobe sent a runner to Kaizu Castle in Kawanakajima, to confirm Zen'emon's location.


But as they anticipated, Zen'emon had gone missing since he went out into the fields a few days ago.

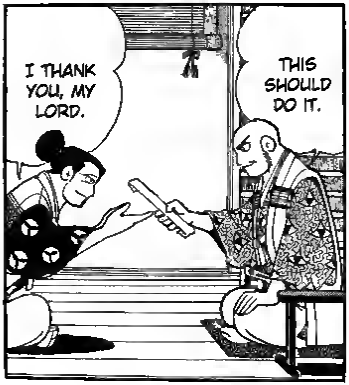


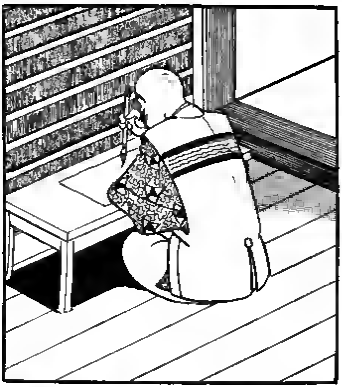
YES, MY LORD.
KANSUKE, ECHIGO HAS BECOME BUSY WITH ACTIVITY. THIS WILL BE A BATTLE WHERE NEITHER ARMY CAN GIVE AN INCH.

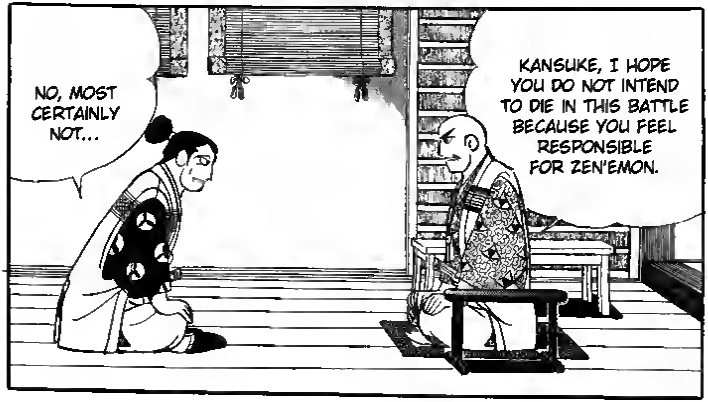
THEREFORE, I MUST HAVE YOU GO ON AHEAD TO KAWANAKAJIMA, AND FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR ZEN'EMON.


OH? AND WHAT IS IT?
UNDERSTOOD. BUT FIRST, I HAVE BUT ONE REQUEST FOR YOU, MY LORD.
WHY DO YOU WANT KAN'ICHI TO BE A PRIEST?
I HAVE A SON NAMED KAN'ICHI. HE IS ONLY TWELVE NOW, BUT I ASK THAT YOU MAKE HIM A CHAPLAIN IN THE FUTURE.
I DO NOT EXPECT TO RETURN FROM THIS BATTLE ALIVE. THEREFORE, I WISH TO DECIDE KAN'ICHI'S FUTURE BEFORE I DEPART.

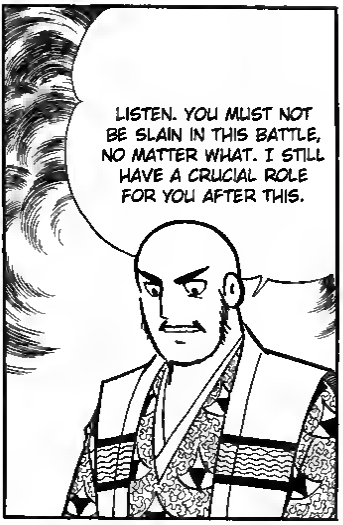
BUT IF YOU WISH FOR KAN'ICHI TO ENTER THE PRIESTHOOD SO HE CAN BECOME A CHAPLAIN, THEN I WILL WRITE A REFERRAL TO HIGH PRIEST GISHU OF CHOZEN TEMPLE FOR YOU.
I AM HONORED THAT YOU CONSIDER THIS UPCOMING BATTLE TO BE MOST CRUCIAL, BUT YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE SO GRIM.

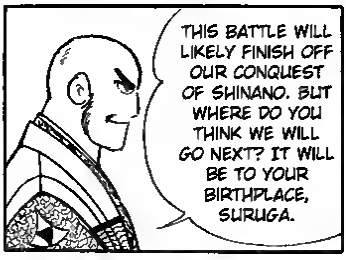

I THANK YOU, MY LORD.
THIS SHOULD DO IT.

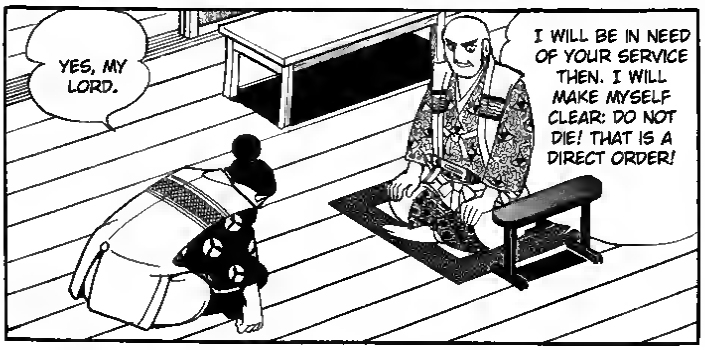



NO, MOST CERTAINLY NOT...
KANSUKE, I HOPE YOU DO NOT INTEND TO DIE IN THIS BATTLE BECAUSE YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ZEN'EMON.

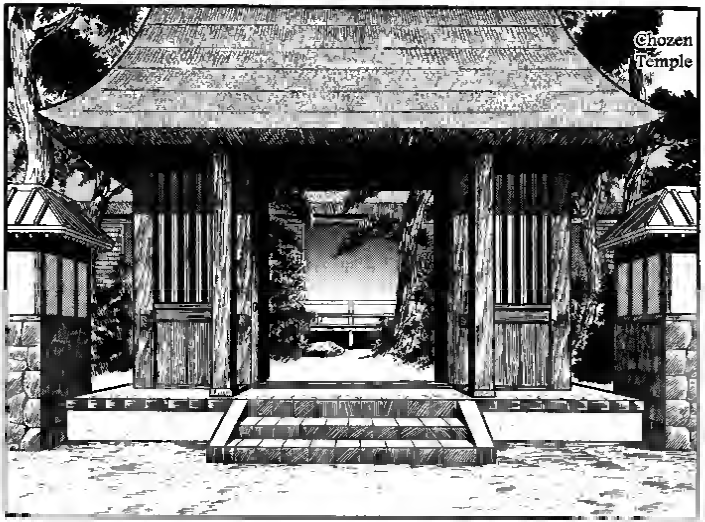
.....

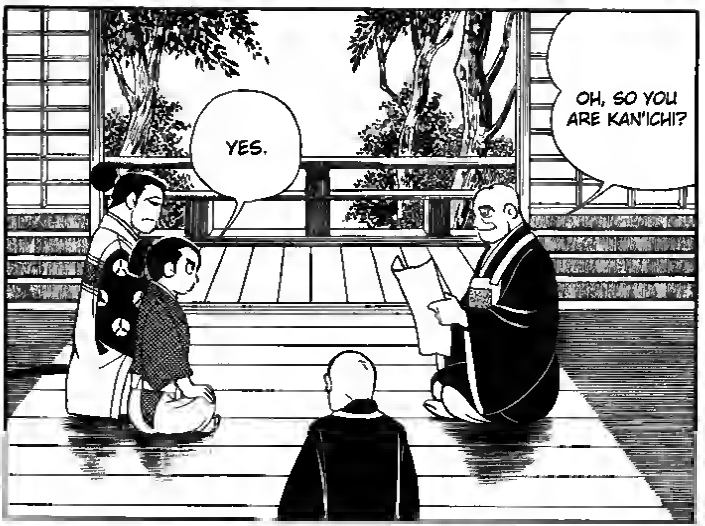

LISTEN. YOU MUST NOT BE SLAIN IN THIS BATTLE, NO MATTER WHAT. I STILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE FOR YOU AFTER THIS.


THIS BATTLE WILL LIKELY FINISH OFF OUR CONQUEST OF SHINANO. BUT WHERE DO YOU THINK WE WILL GO NEXT? IT WILL BE TO YOUR BIRTHPLACE, SURUGA.

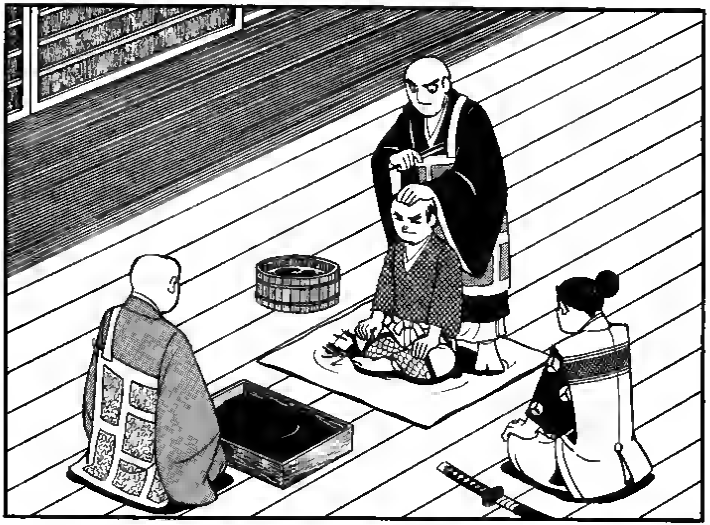

YES, MY LORD.
I WILL BE IN NEED OF YOUR SERVICE THEN. I WILL MAKE MYSELF CLEAR: DO NOT DIE! THAT IS A DIRECT ORDER!

It was then that a tear glimmered in Kansuke's eye.

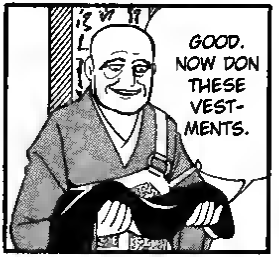

Chozen Temple

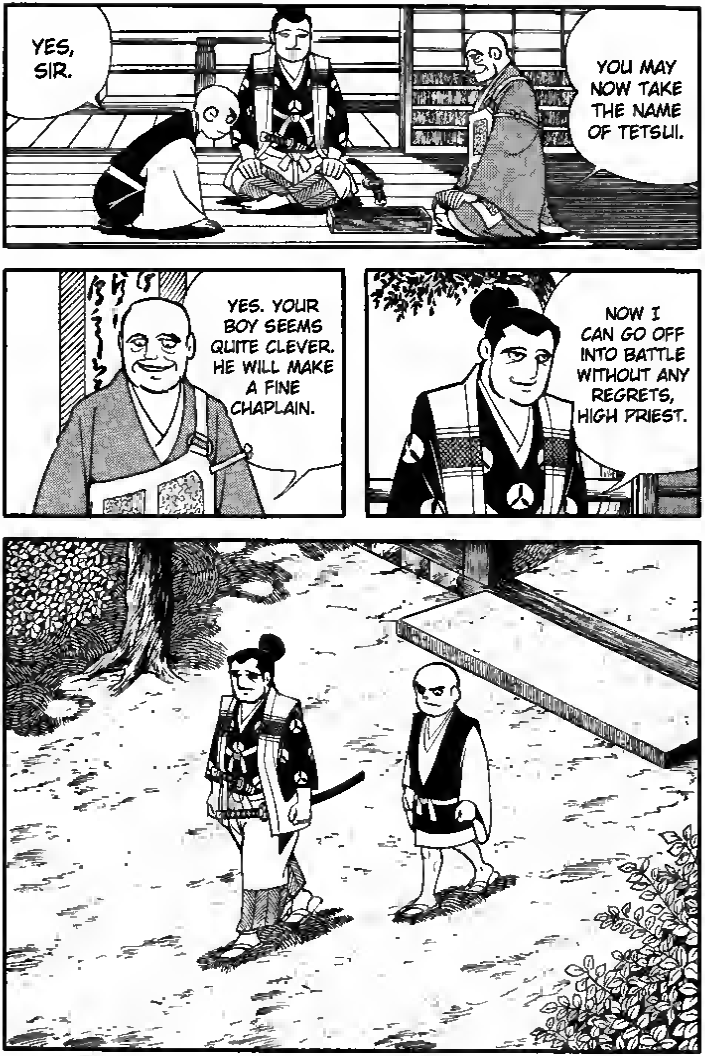

OH, SO YOU ARE KAN'ICHI?
YES.

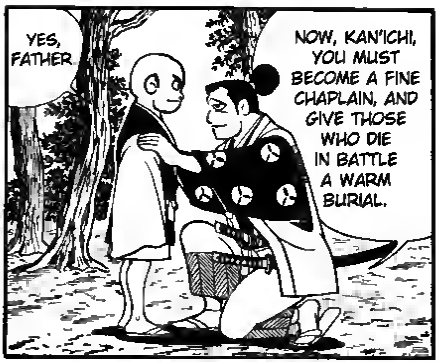
I DO NOT WISH TO, BUT MY FATHER FORCED ME TO COME HERE.
DO YOU WANT TO BE A PRIEST?
I ENJOY LEARNING.
YOU ARE QUITE HONEST. THEN ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU THIS. DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO WRITE? DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO READ?
YOU. PREPARE TO SHAVE HIM...
I SEE. THEN THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU.

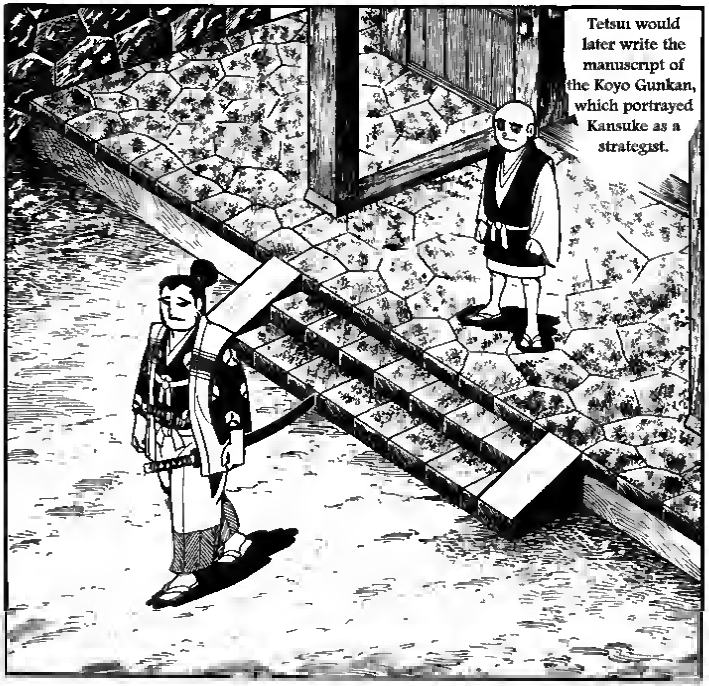


OH, WE ARE WITNESSING THE BIRTH OF A NEW PRIEST!


GOOD. NOW DON THESE VEST-MENTS.


YES, SIR.
YOU MAY NOW TAKE THE NAME OF TETSUI.
YES. YOUR BOY SEEMS QUITE CLEVER. HE WILL MAKE A FINE CHAPLAIN.
NOW I CAN GO OFF INTO BATTLE WITHOUT ANY REGRETS, HIGH PRIEST.


YES, FATHER.
NOW, KAN'ICHI, YOU MUST BECOME A FINE CHAPLAIN, AND GIVE THOSE WHO DIE IN BATTLE A WARM BURIAL.


Tetsuu would later write the manuscript of the Koyo Gunkan, which portrayed Kansuke as a strategist.

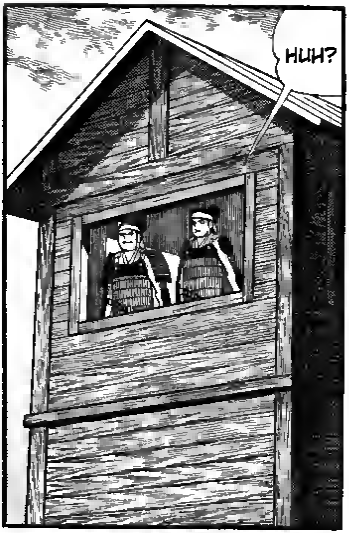
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

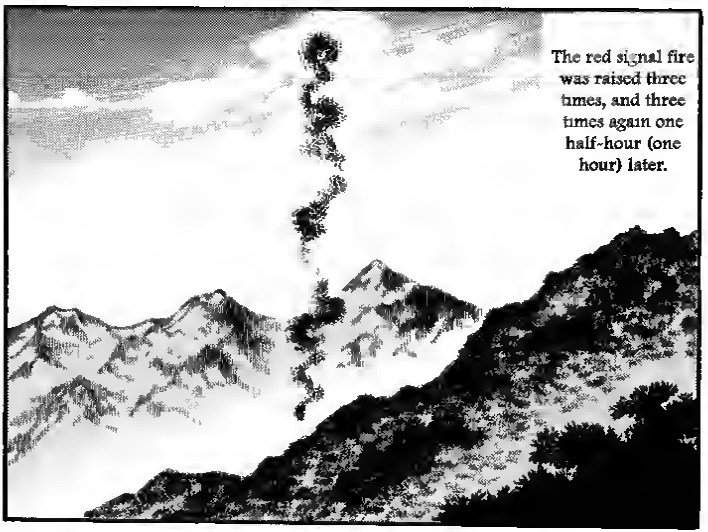
CHAPTER 50

Chapter 51: The Red Signal Fire

CAPTAIN! THERE IS A RED SIGNAL FIRE!

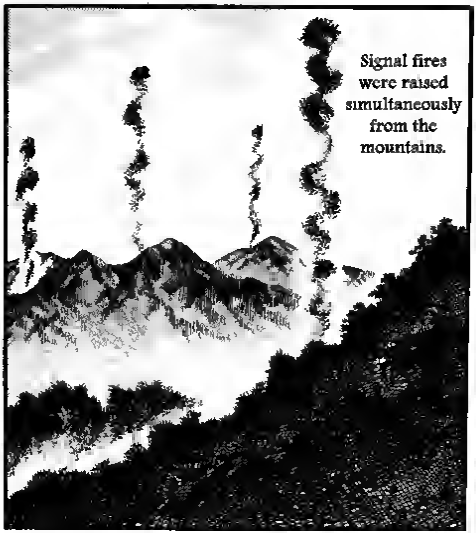

HUH?

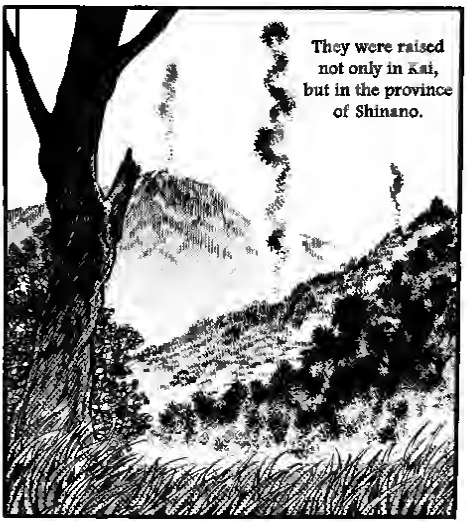
CHECK HOW MANY TIMES THEY RAISE IT!


The red signal fire was raised three times, and three times again one half-hour (one hour) later.

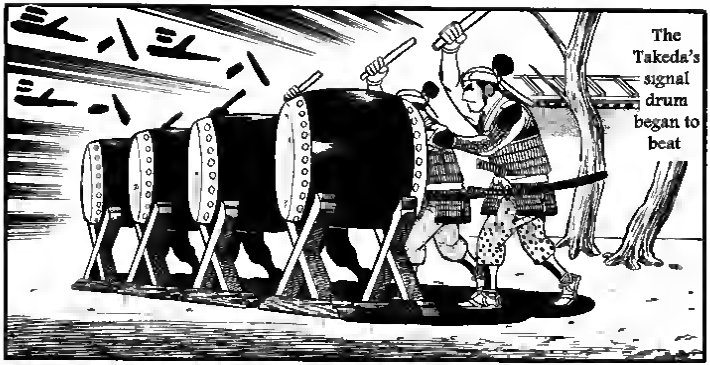
I MUST REPORT BACK TO THE MASTER IMMEDIATELY!
THE FIRST RED SIGNAL IS A SIGNAL THAT IIESUGI MASATORA IS ON THE MARCH, THE SECOND IS A SIGNAL THAT THE ECHIGO ARMY IS HEADED FOR KAIZU CASTLE, AND THE THIRD IS A SIGNAL THAT HIS ARMY NUMBERS FROM TEN TO TWENTY THOUSAND!

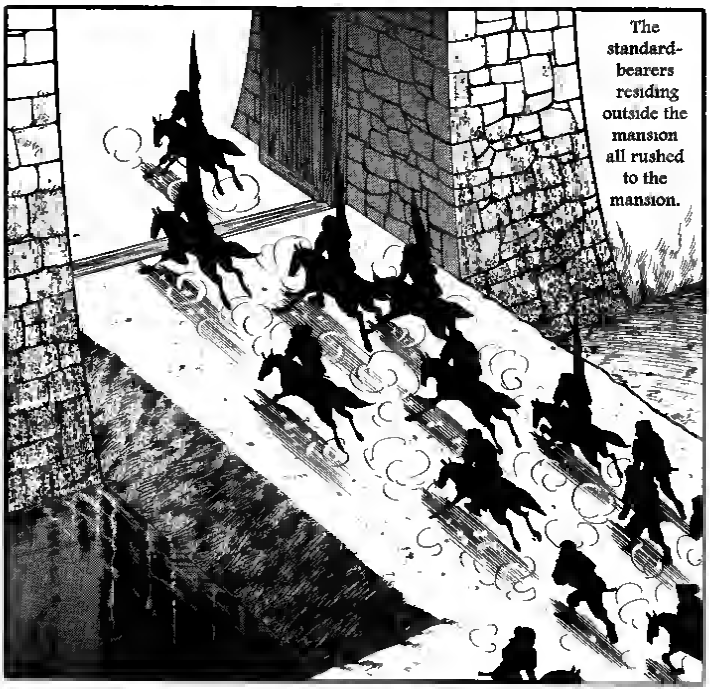
REPORTING IN! MT. AMARI HAS SENT UP THREE RED SIGNAL FIRES!
UESUGI MASATORA IS FINALLY ON THE MOVE!
YES, MY LORD!
GOOD! SEND THE SIGNAL AT ONCE!

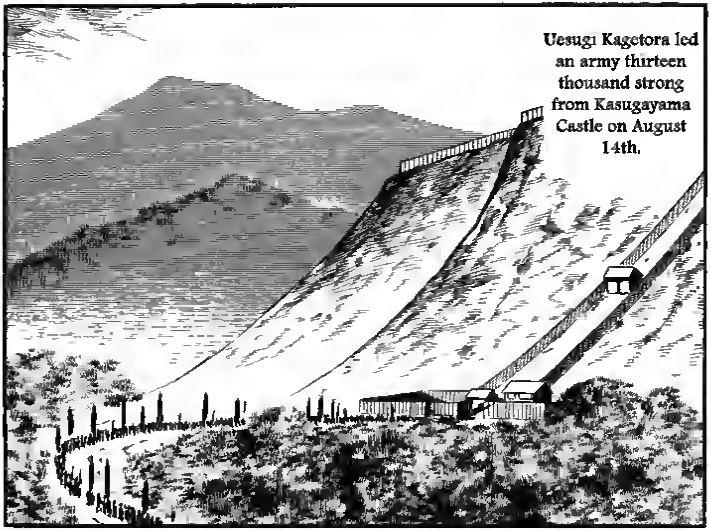

Signal fires were raised simultaneously from the mountains.

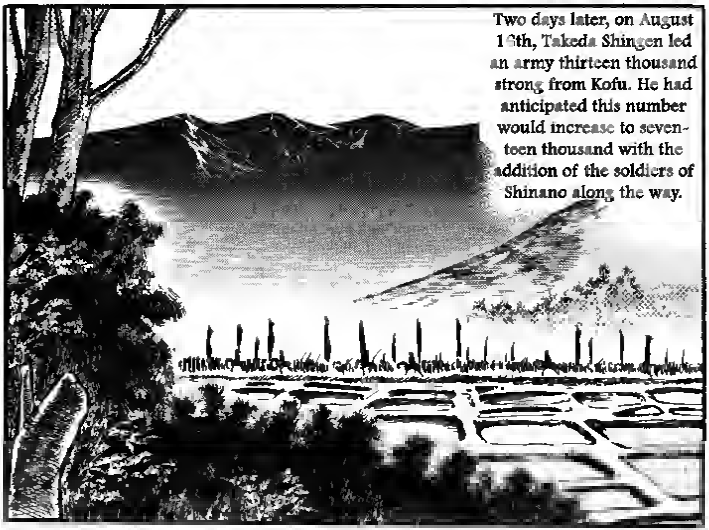

They were raised not only in Kai, but in the province of Shinano.

One red signal fire was raised from Tsutsu-ji-ga-Saki.

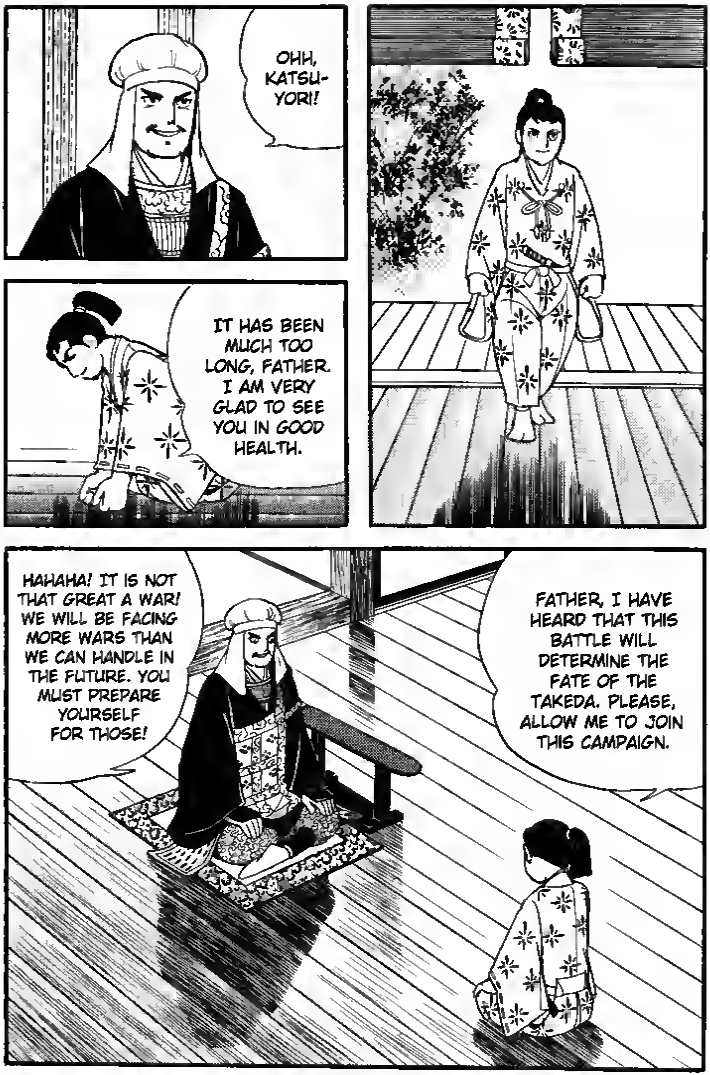

The Takeda's signal drum began to beat


The standard-bearers residing outside the mansion all rushed to the mansion.


Uesugi Kagetora led an army thirteen thousand strong from Kasugayama Castle on August 14th.

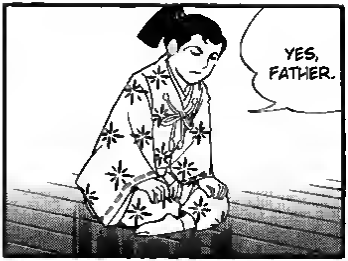

Two days later, on August 16th, Takeda Shingen led an army thirteen thousand strong from Kofu. He had anticipated this number would increase to seventeen thousand with the addition of the soldiers of Shinano along the way.

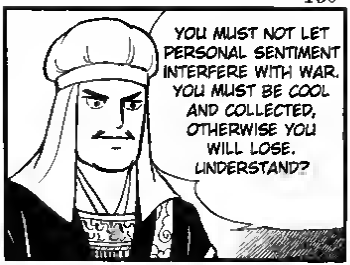
The next day, Shingen arrived in Suwa and rested.
WHAT? KATSUYORI HAS ARRIVED?
REPORTING IN! LORD INA SHIRO KATSUYORI OF TAKATO CASTLE IS HERE TO SEE YOU!

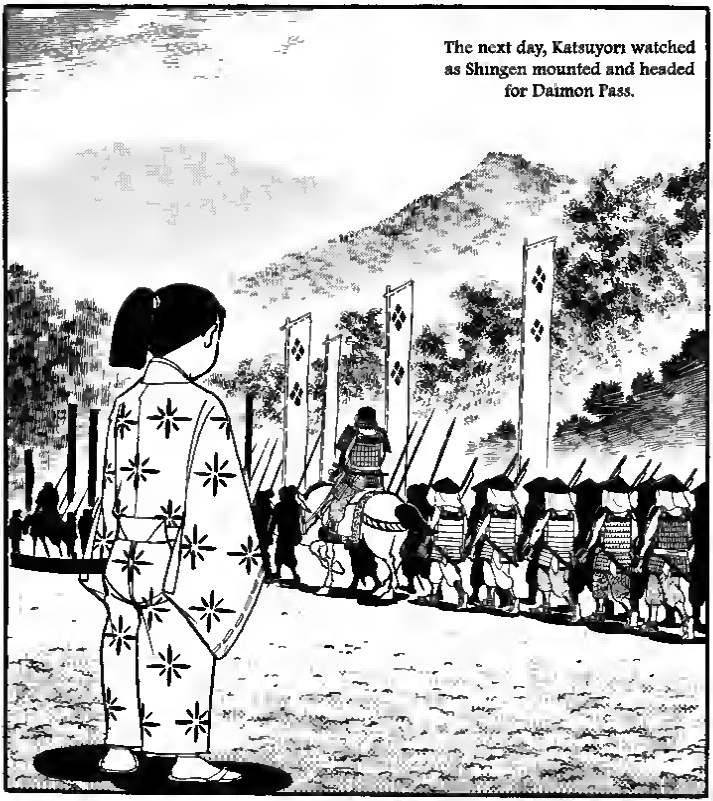

OHH, KATSU-YORI!
IT HAS BEEN MUCH TOO LONG, FATHER. I AM VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU IN GOOD HEALTH.
HAHAHA! IT IS NOT THAT GREAT A WAR! WE WILL BE FACING MORE WARS THAN WE CAN HANDLE IN THE FUTURE. YOU MUST PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THOSE!
FATHER, I HAVE HEARD THAT THIS BATTLE WILL DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE TAKEDA. PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO JOIN THIS CAMPAIGN.

I AM ALREADY FOURTEEN. I SHOULD BE OLD ENOUGH TO GO ON MY FIRST BATTLE.
KATSUYORI, YOU ARE STILL A CHILD. THIS BATTLE IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY.
HAHAHA!
IF YOU SAY THAT I AM STILL A CHILD, BROTHER, THEN I WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO A HORSE RACE.
KATSUYORI, ONLY CHILDREN SPEAK SO. HOW CAN A CHILD WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO BRANDISH A SWORD OR WIELD A SPEAR RUSH INTO BATTLE?

Lady Sanjo's firstborn, Taro Yoshinobu, was twenty-three years old at the time.
COME BACK WHEN YOU ARE BIGGER AND MORE ADEPT IN THE WAYS OF MARTIAL ARTS!
THAT CYNICISM IS JUST LIKE HIS MOTHER'S.
.....
KATSUYORI, I HAVE ALREADY MADE ALL THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR THIS BATTLE. I HAVE NO ROOM TO ADD YOU AS A GENERAL.


YES, FATHER.


YOU MUST NOT LET PERSONAL SENTIMENT INTERFERE WITH WAR. YOU MUST BE COOL AND COLLECTED, OTHERWISE YOU WILL LOSE. UNDERSTAND?


The next day, Katsuyori watched as Shingen mounted and headed for Daimon Pass.

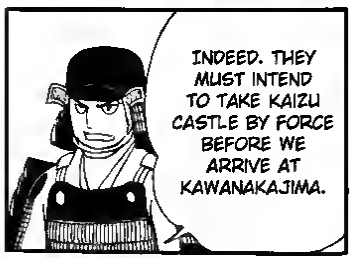
WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN MORE NATURAL FOR TARO TO INVITE SHIRO TO JOIN?
TARO YOSHINOBU IS A GREATER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT. WHY DID HE NOT SPEAK KINDER AS A BROTHER WOULD?
WHERE IS THE MAIN ECHIGO ARMY?
A SHINANO FORCE OF TWO THOUSAND SERVING AS ECHIGO'S VANGUARD HAS SURROUNDED KAIZU CASTLE!
RE-PORT-ING IN!

GOOD WORK.

THEY ARE ASSEMBLED AT ZENKO TEMPLE.

I BELIEVE SO. I FEAR THE ENEMY INTENDS TO CAPTURE KAIZU CASTLE AT ONCE...

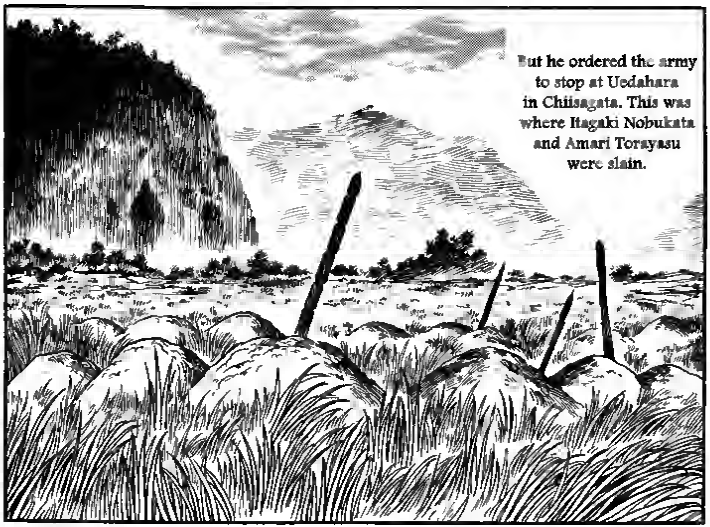
DO YOU NOT FIND THE ECHIGO ARMY'S ADVANCE TO BE RATHER FAST?


INDEED. THEY MUST INTEND TO TAKE KAIZU CASTLE BY FORCE BEFORE WE ARRIVE AT KAWANAKAJIMA.

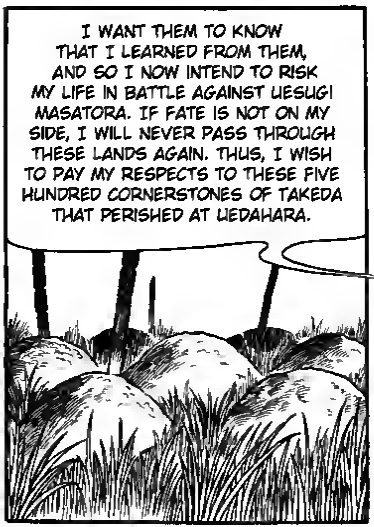
YES.
THE ENEMY SHOULD KNOW THAT KAIZU CASTLE WILL NOT SIMPLY FALL TO FORCE. I BELIEVE THE ENEMY WILL SET UP CAMP AND WAIT IN A POSITION THEY CAN EASILY AMBUSH US FROM.
NOBUSHIGE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I SHARE SIR TENKYU'S OPINION. WE MUST ARRIVE AT KAWANAKAJIMA WITH UTMOST HASTE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SABUROBE?
IF THE ENEMY IS WAITING WITH THAT INTENT, THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH.

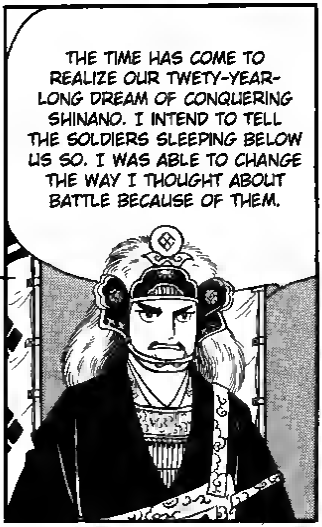
NO, WE WILL HURRY. WE WILL HURRY TO KAWANA-KAJIMA NIGHT AND DAY.
SO DO YOU PLAN ON A SLOW MARCH LIKE WE DID ONCE BEFORE?
?
WE MUST APPEAR TO BE HURRYING TO KAWAN-AKAJIMA.
THAT IS NOT WHAT YOU JUST SAID...
MASATORA IS SETTING UP NESTS TO LIE IN WAIT AS WE ARE DRAWN LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME. I WANT TO SEE HOW MASATORA WILL SET UP THOSE NESTS. IT IS FAR SIMPLER TO DESTROY NESTS THAN TO SET THEM UP.

Takeda
Shingen
hurried to
Kawana-
kajima.

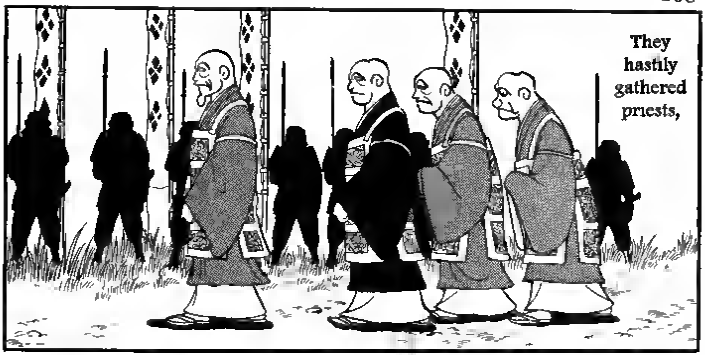

But he ordered the army
to stop at Uedahara
in Chiisagata. This was
where Itagaki Nobukata
and Amari Torayasu
were slain.

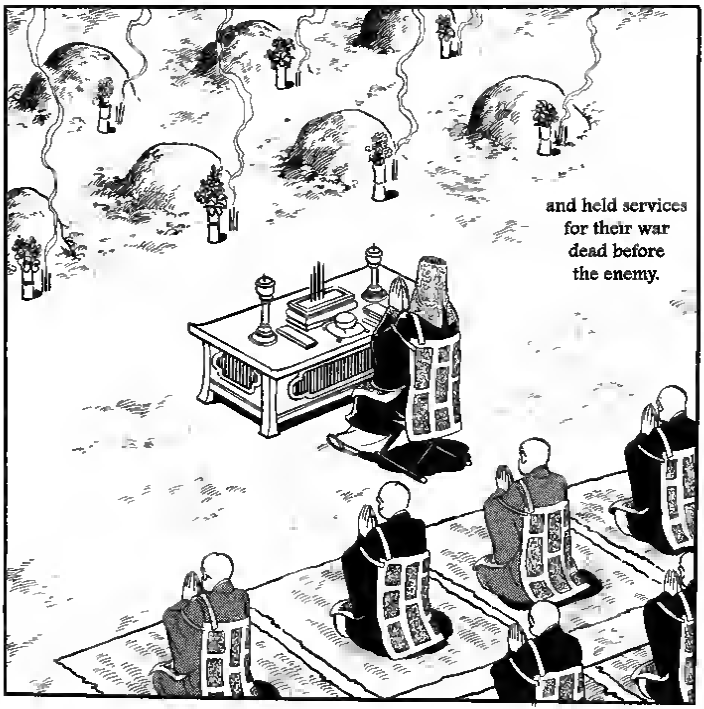
YOU WOULD HOLD SERVICES BEFORE THE ENEMY?
EVERYONE, I HAVE STOPPED YOU ALL HERE FOR ONE REASON ALONE. I WISH TO PERFORM RITES FOR ITAGAKI NOBUKATA, AMARI TORAYASU, AND OVER FIVE HUNDRED OTHERS SLAIN IN BATTLE HERE.
I CAN ONLY COMMAND YOU ALL TODAY AS THE GUARDIAN OF KAI BECAUSE OF ITAGAKI, AMARI, AND THE SOLDIERS SLAIN HERE.
I HAVE NEVER FOUGHT A BATTLE AS BITTER AS UEDAHARA. WE WERE SURROUNDED BY MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO, AND I WAS NEARLY SLAIN MYSELF.


I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT I LEARNED FROM THEM, AND SO I NOW INTEND TO RISK MY LIFE IN BATTLE AGAINST UESUGI MASATORA. IF FATE IS NOT ON MY SIDE, I WILL NEVER PASS THROUGH THESE LANDS AGAIN. THUS, I WISH TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THESE FIVE HUNDRED CORNERSTONES OF TAKEDA THAT PERISHED AT UEDAHARA.


THE TIME HAS COME TO REALIZE OUR TWETY-YEAR-LONG DREAM OF CONQUERING SHINANO. I INTEND TO TELL THE SOLDIERS SLEEPING BELOW US SO. I WAS ABLE TO CHANGE THE WAY I THOUGHT ABOUT BATTLE BECAUSE OF THEM.

The generals all felt the strength of Shingen's determination for this battle.


They hastily gathered priests,

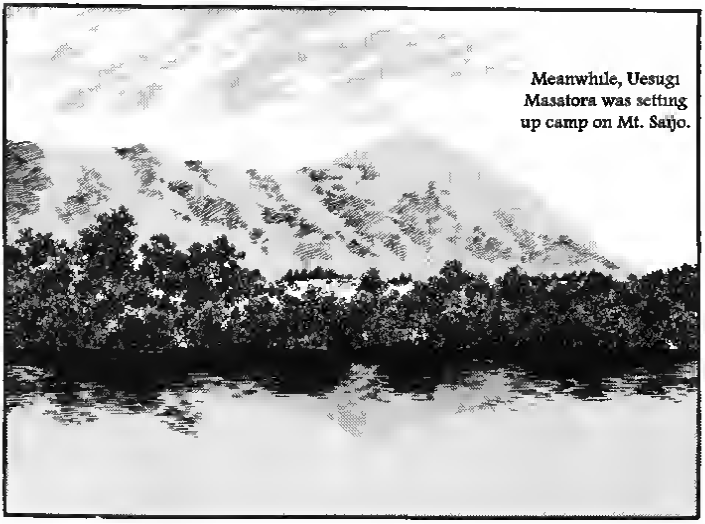

and held services for their war dead before the enemy.

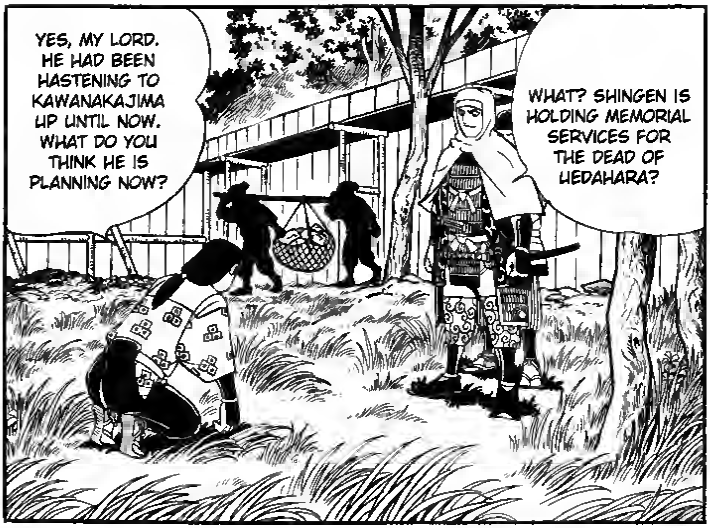
TAKEDA SHINGEN

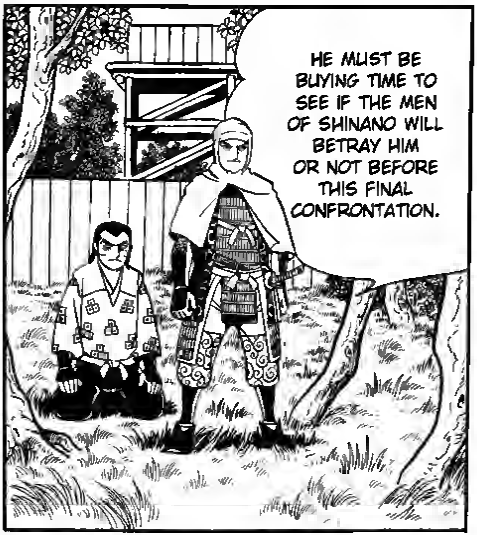
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 51

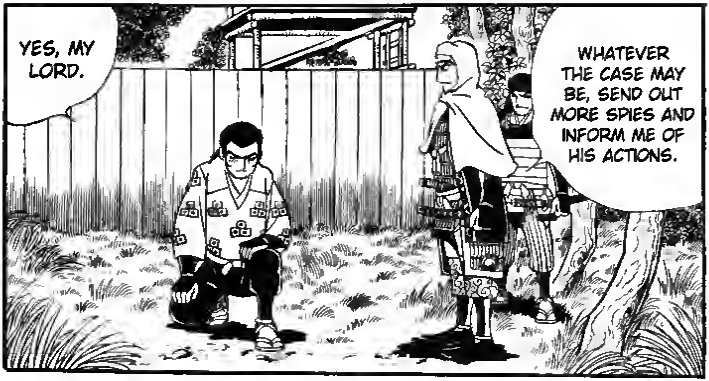
Chapter 52: Awaiting the Turning Point

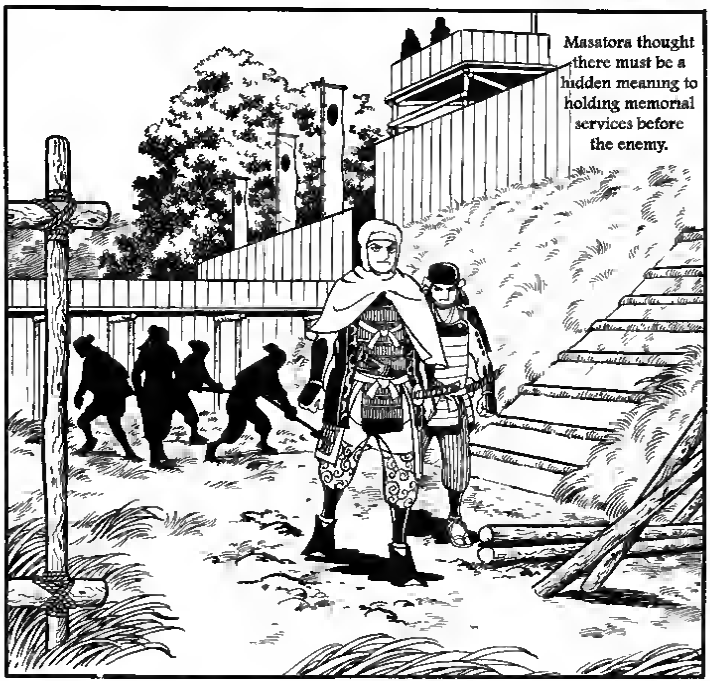


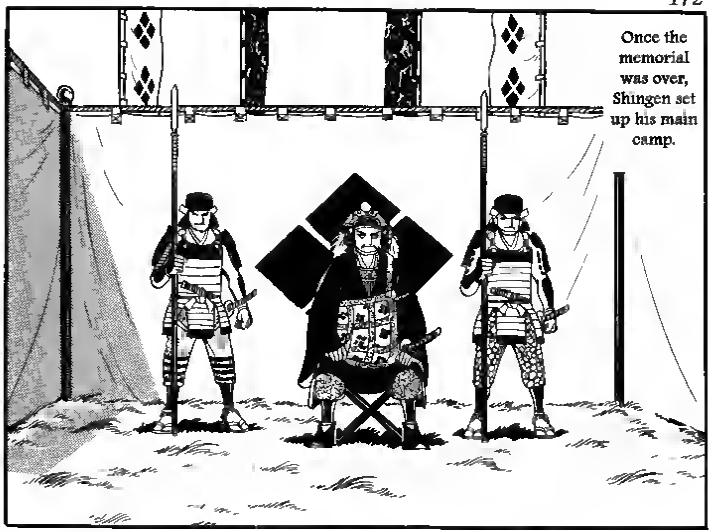

YES, MY LORD. HE HAD BEEN HASTENING TO KAWANAKAJIMA UP UNTIL NOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK HE IS PLANNING NOW?
WHAT? SHINGEN IS HOLDING MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THE DEAD OF UEDAHARA?

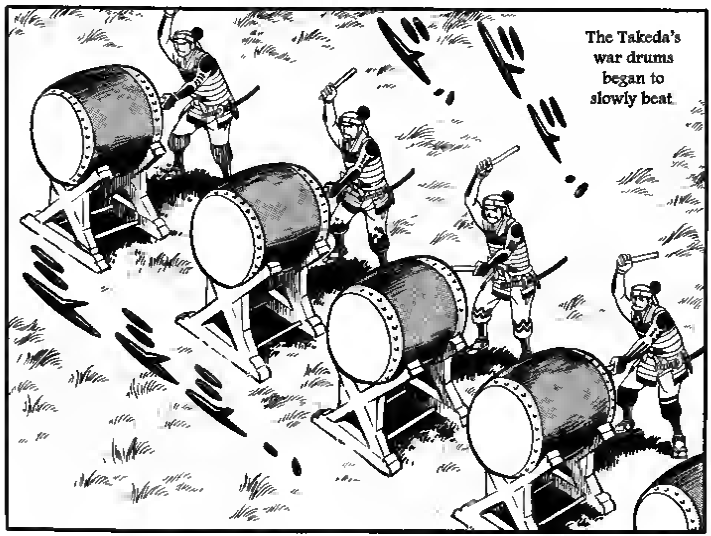

HE MUST BE BUYING TIME TO SEE IF THE MEN OF SHINANO WILL BETRAY HIM OR NOT BEFORE THIS FINAL CONFRONTATION.

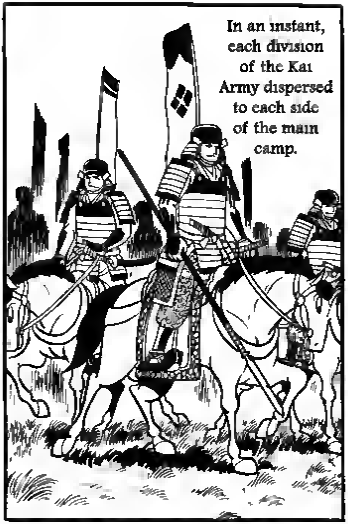
HMM...

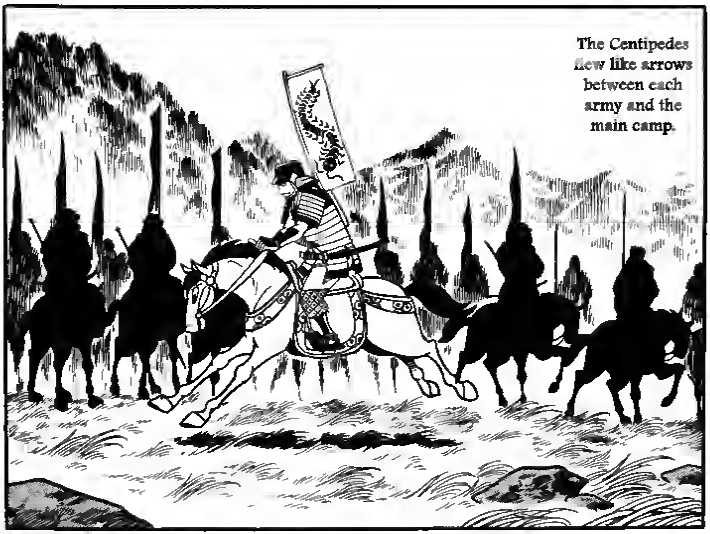

YES, MY LORD.
WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, SEND OUT MORE SPIES AND INFORM ME OF HIS ACTIONS.

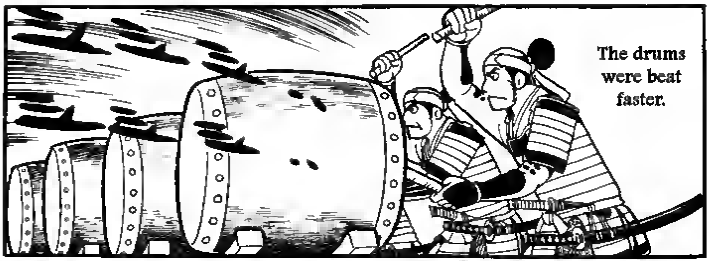

Masatora thought there must be a hidden meaning to holding memorial services before the enemy.


Once the memorial was over, Shingen set up his main camp.


The Takeda's war drums began to slowly beat.

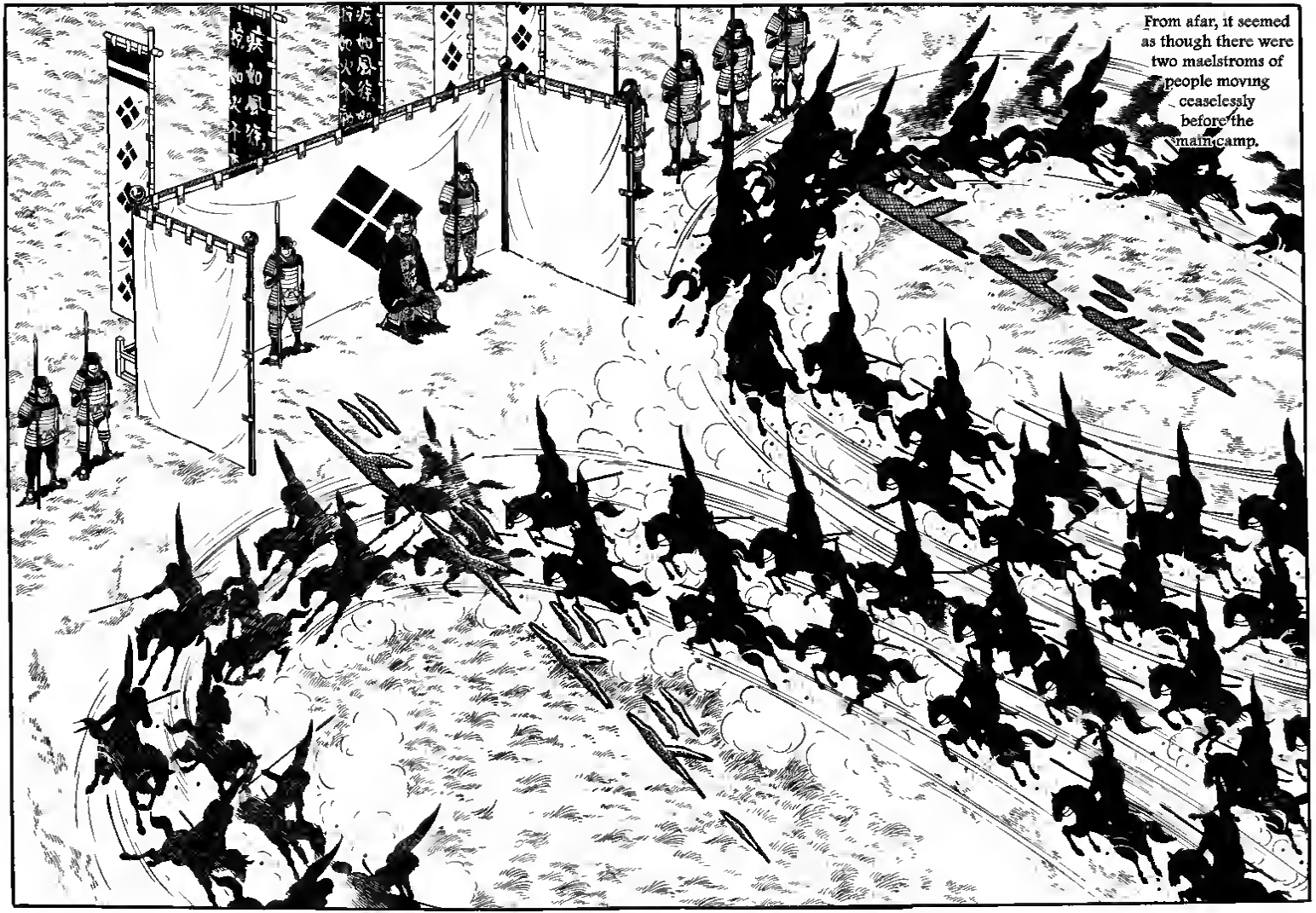

In an instant, each division of the Kai Army dispersed to each side of the main camp.

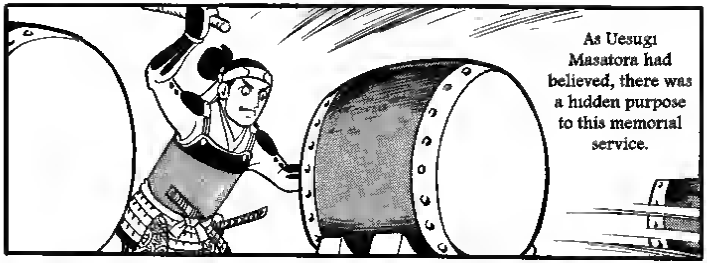

The Centipedes flew like arrows between each army and the main camp.


The drums were beat faster.

In an instant, each division rushed towards the main camp.

They parted to the left and right before the main camp,
and turned back.
After a full rotation, they came back again


From afar, it seemed as though there were two maelstroms of people moving ceaselessly before the main camp.


As Uesugi Masatora had believed, there was a hidden purpose to this memorial service.

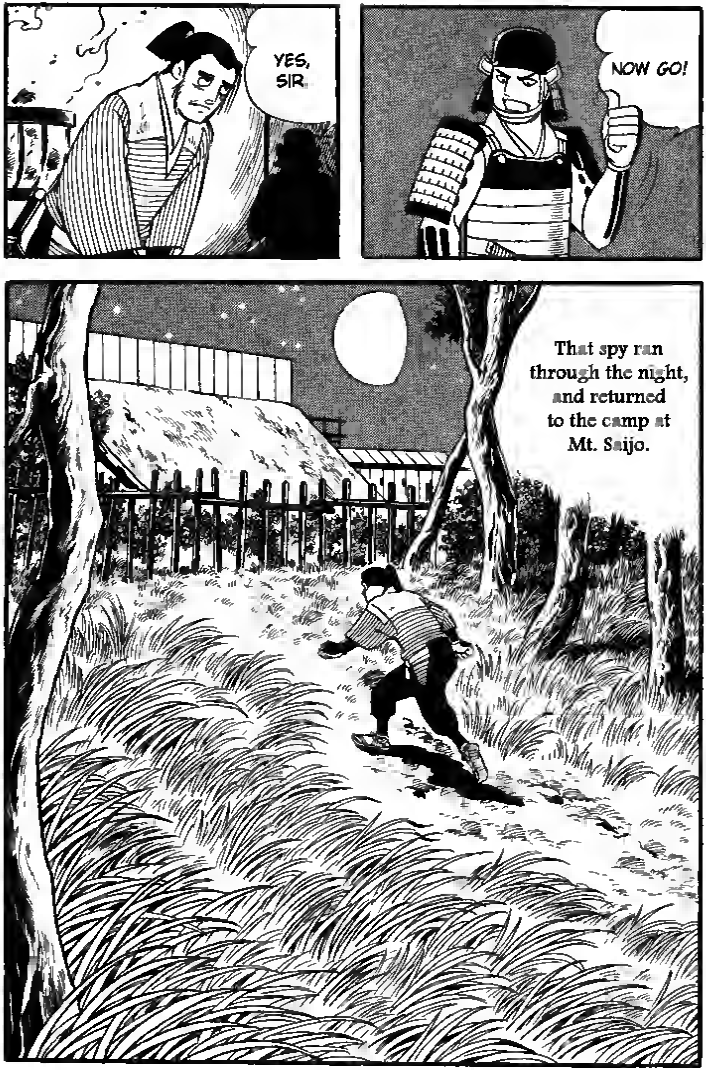
It was a military drill to teach the men of Shinano the signals of the Takeda

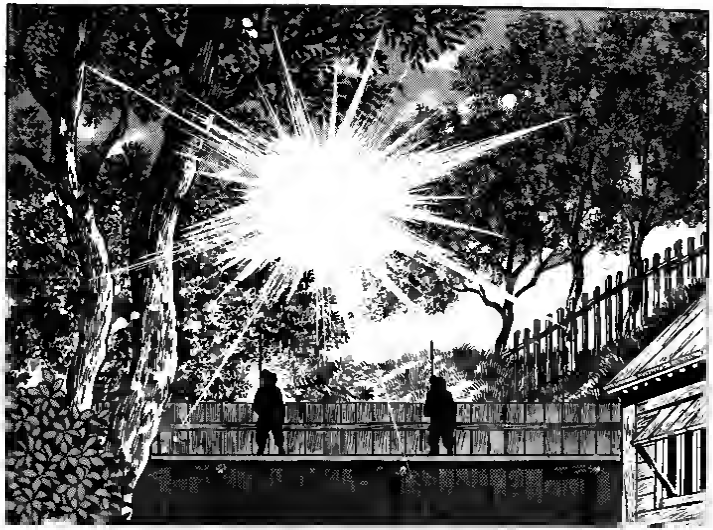
Once they had finished, each division was given food and drink.

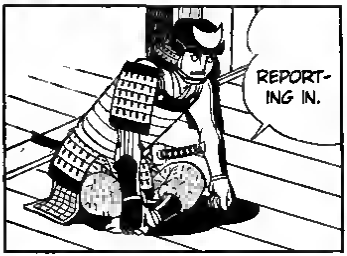
A SPY! WE HAVE CAPTURED A SPY!
KILL ME! PLEASE, KILL ME!

I SEE.
MY LORD! THIS MAN HAS BEEN SPYING OUT OUR CAMP! HE HAS AN ECHIGO ACCENT! HE MUST BE UESUGI'S SPY!
YOU WOULD PARDON HIM?
TODAY IS A DAY OF MEMORIAL. I SHALL PARDON HIM.
I DO NOT WISH TO KILL ON A DAY OF MEMORIAL. HE MUST BE HUNGRY. GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO EAT, AND BUT ONE CUP OF WINE, IF HE WISHES.

COME WITH ME!
YES, MY LORD.
.....
HERE. EAT. YOU MAY HAVE BUT ONE CUP OF WINE.
YOU ARE A LUCKY ONE. THE MASTER NEVER PARDONS HIS FOES, BUT TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY.


YES, SIR.
NOW GO!
That spy ran through the night, and returned to the camp at Mt. Saijo.

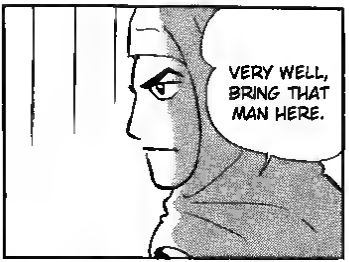



REPORT-
ING IN.

YES?

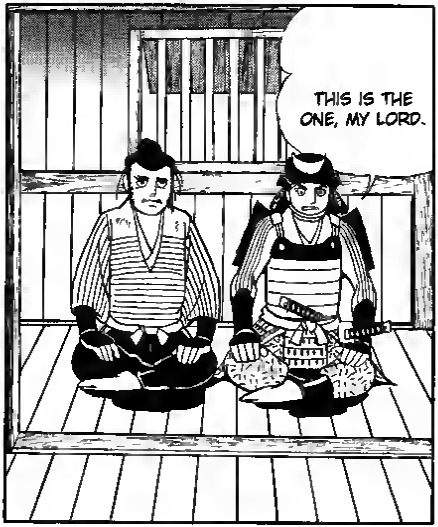
ONE OF TAKEDA'S?
WE HAVE SEIZED A SPY.
OH? HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE TAKEDA AND RETURNED UNSCATHED?
NO, ONE OF OURS. HE HAD BEEN APPREHENDED BY THE TAKEDA, BUT HE RETURNED WITHOUT A SINGLE WOUND.
HMM... SO, YOU SAY THEY MIGHT HAVE DEFECTED.
YES, MY LORD. HE SAW OTHER SPIES BEING CAPTURED AS WELL.

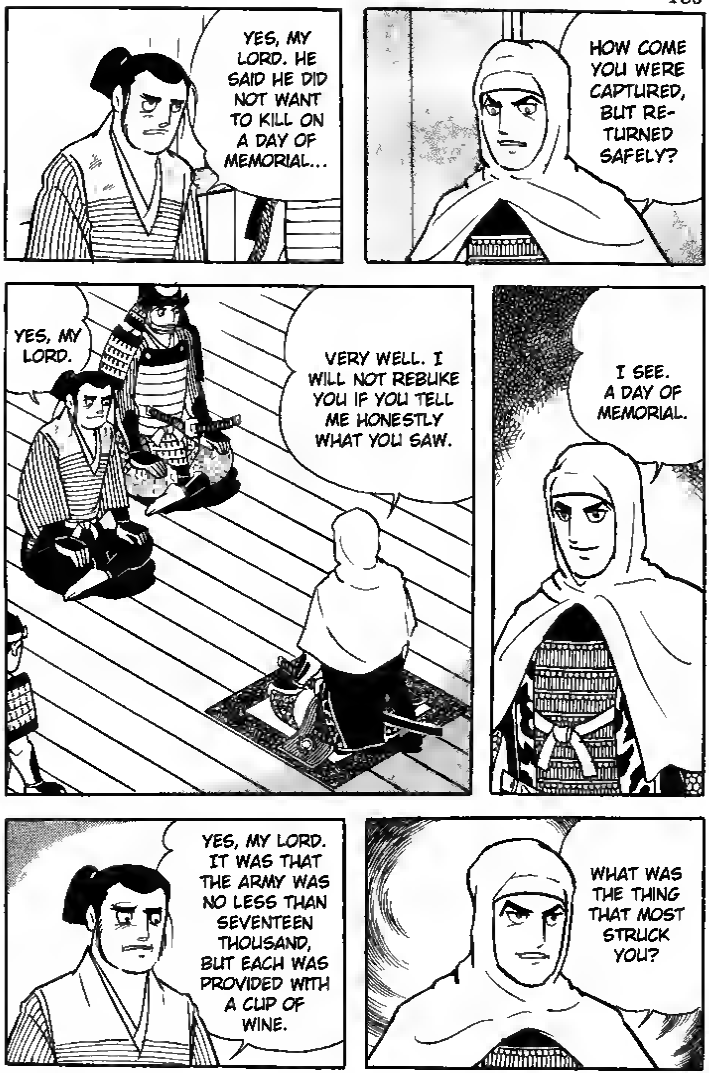
YES, MY LORD.


VERY WELL, BRING THAT MAN HERE.

HMM... TAKEDA DOES NOT SHOW MERCY ON HIS FOES. IT IS INDEED STRANGE THAT HE RETURNED ALIVE.

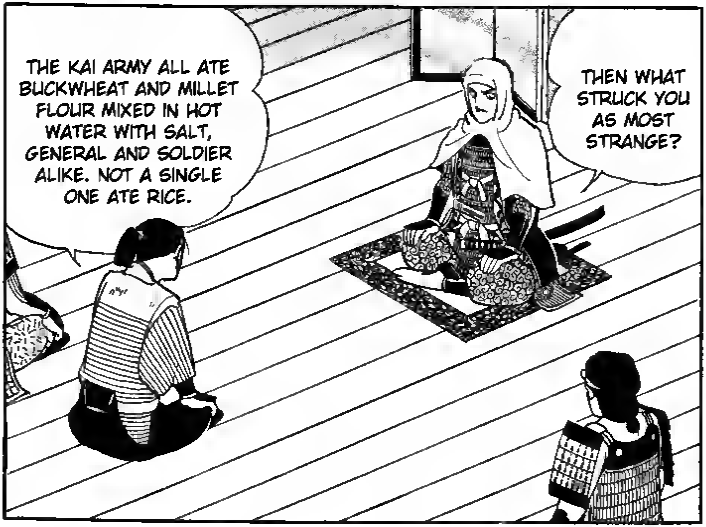
COME CLOSER.


THIS IS THE ONE, MY LORD.

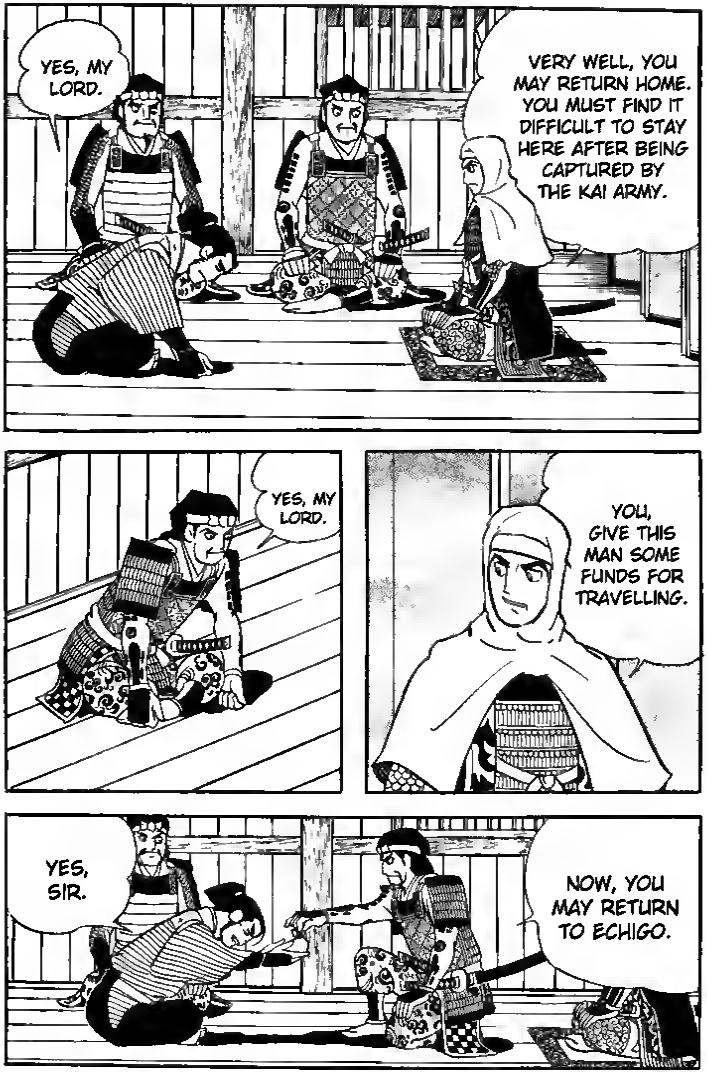

YES, MY LORD. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO KILL ON A DAY OF MEMORIAL...
HOW COME YOU WERE CAPTURED, BUT RETURNED SAFELY?
YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL. I WILL NOT REBUKE YOU IF YOU TELL ME HONESTLY WHAT YOU SAW.
I SEE. A DAY OF MEMORIAL.
YES, MY LORD. IT WAS THAT THE ARMY WAS NO LESS THAN SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, BUT EACH WAS PROVIDED WITH A CUP OF WINE.
WHAT WAS THE THING THAT MOST STRUCK YOU?

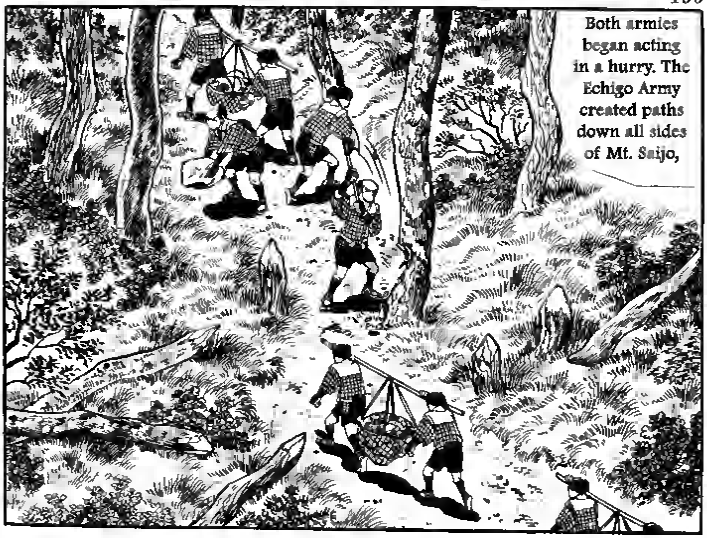
The fact that the supply division could prepare so much wine before a major battle meant that the Kai Army had that much to spare.

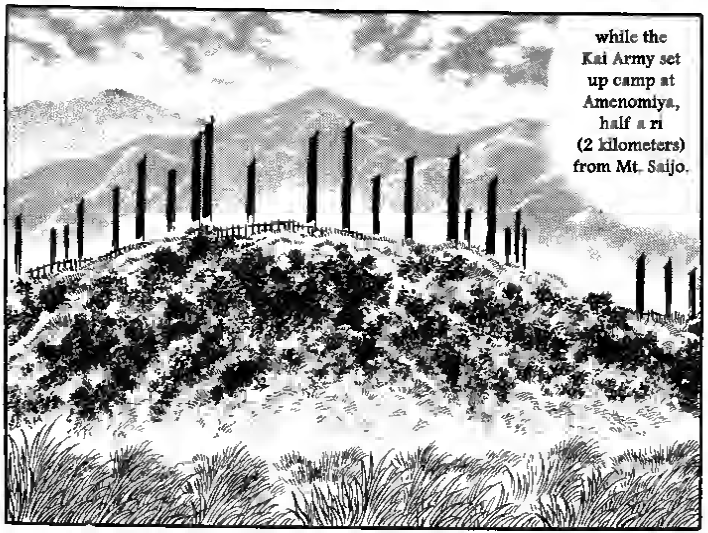
But Masatora did not laugh If each man had one go, ten men would have one sho, a hundred men one to, and a thousand men one koku. And seventeen thousand men would mean seventeen koku, a massive amount of wine.

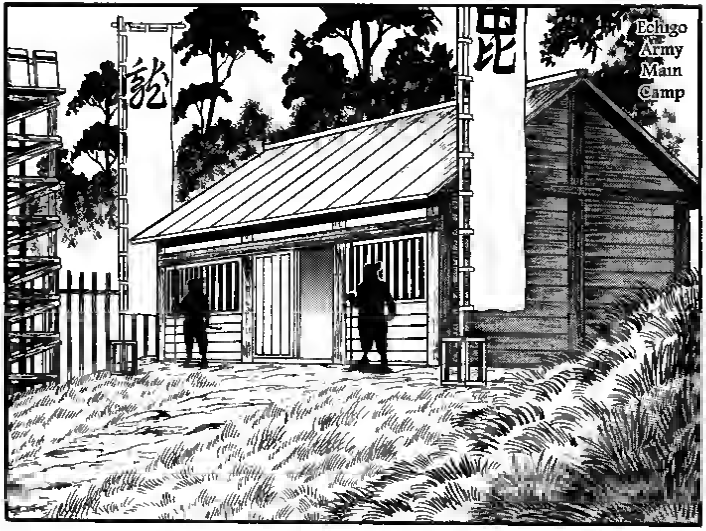

THE KAI ARMY ALL ATE BUCKWHEAT AND MILLET FLOUR MIXED IN HOT WATER WITH SALT, GENERAL AND SOLDIER ALIKE. NOT A SINGLE ONE ATE RICE.
THEN WHAT STRUCK YOU AS MOST STRANGE?

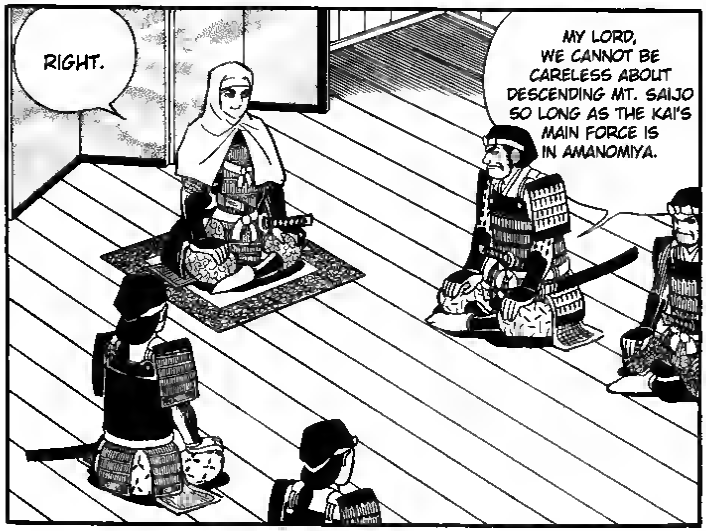
HAHAHA! THAT IS STRANGE! IT IS A WONDER THEY REMAIN SOUND!
DOES THE KAI ARMY NOT EAT RICE?
EACH SOLDIER HAD A MEAGER TWENTY DAYS' WORTH OF RATIONS. I WAS CAUGHT TRYING TO STEAL THEIR RATIONS AS I WAS FAMISHED.
HOW MUCH DO YOU ASSUME WAS RATIONED TO EACH SOLDIER OF THE KAI ARMY?
HMM... TWENTY DAYS' WORTH OF RATIONS EACH. THERE MUST BE ENOUGH RATIONS IN STORE AT KAIZU CASTLE...


YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL, YOU MAY RETURN HOME. YOU MUST FIND IT DIFFICULT TO STAY HERE AFTER BEING CAPTURED BY THE KAI ARMY.
YES, MY LORD.
YOU, GIVE THIS MAN SOME FUNDS FOR TRAVELLING.
YES, SIR.
NOW, YOU MAY RETURN TO ECHIGO.

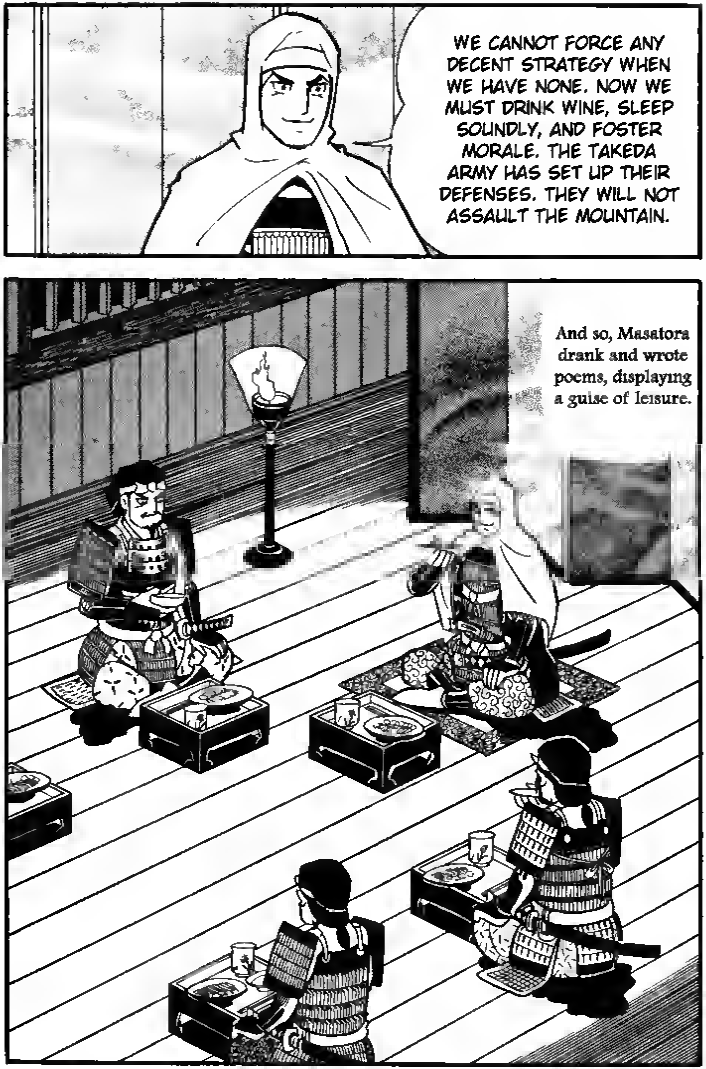

Both armies began acting in a hurry. The Echigo Army created paths down all sides of Mt. Saijo,


while the Kai Army set up camp at Amenomiya, half a ri (2 kilometers) from Mt. Saijo.

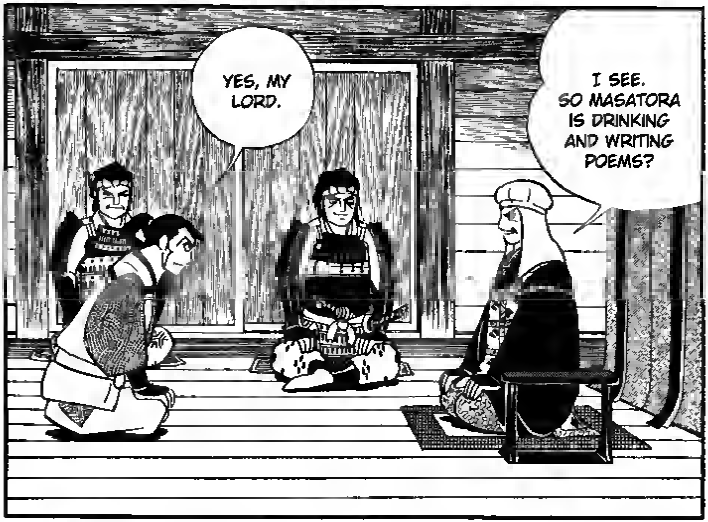

Echigo Army Main Camp


RIGHT.
MY LORD, WE CANNOT BE CARELESS ABOUT DESCENDING MT. SAIJO SO LONG AS THE KAI'S MAIN FORCE IS IN AMANOMIYA.

I BELIEVE IT WILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO MAKE A SWIFT RAID ON THE KAI ARMY.
THAT IS NOT ALL THE ARMY OF KAI HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTING WATCHHOUSES HERE AND THERE. THEY WILL CUT OFF OUR SUPPLY ROUTES TO ECHIGO AT THIS RATE.
BUT WE WILL STARVE IF THIS KEEPS UP!
NO. OUR ARMY IS OUTNUMBERED. WE MUST NOT BE HASTY.
SIMPLY AWAITING A TURNING POINT IS HARDLY A STRATEGY!
WE MUST AWAIT A TURNING POINT. IT WILL COME EVENTUALLY. WE MUST WAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL THEN.
ENOUGH!


WE CANNOT FORCE ANY DECENT STRATEGY WHEN WE HAVE NONE. NOW WE MUST DRINK WINE, SLEEP SOUNDLY, AND FOSTER MORALE. THE TAKEDA ARMY HAS SET UP THEIR DEFENSES. THEY WILL NOT ASSAULT THE MOUNTAIN.
And so, Masatora drank and wrote poems, displaying a guise of leisure.

Takeda's Main Camp

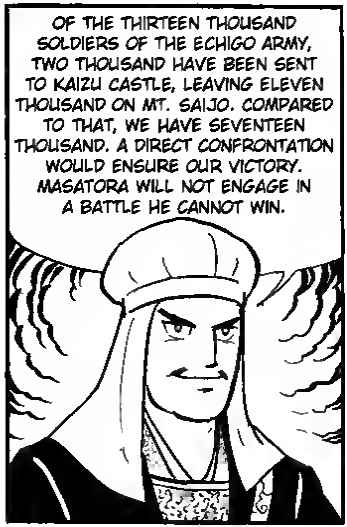

YES, MY LORD.
I SEE. SO MASATORA IS DRINKING AND WRITING POEMS?

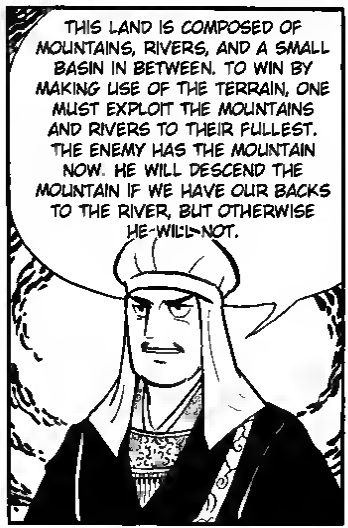
HEHEHE... MASATORA IS AS TRANSPARENT AS EVER. I PRESUME THAT POETRY IS THE LAST THING ON HIS MIND, AND HE IS TRULY RACKING HIS BRAINS FOR A METHOD TO OPPOSE THE ARMY BEFORE HIM.

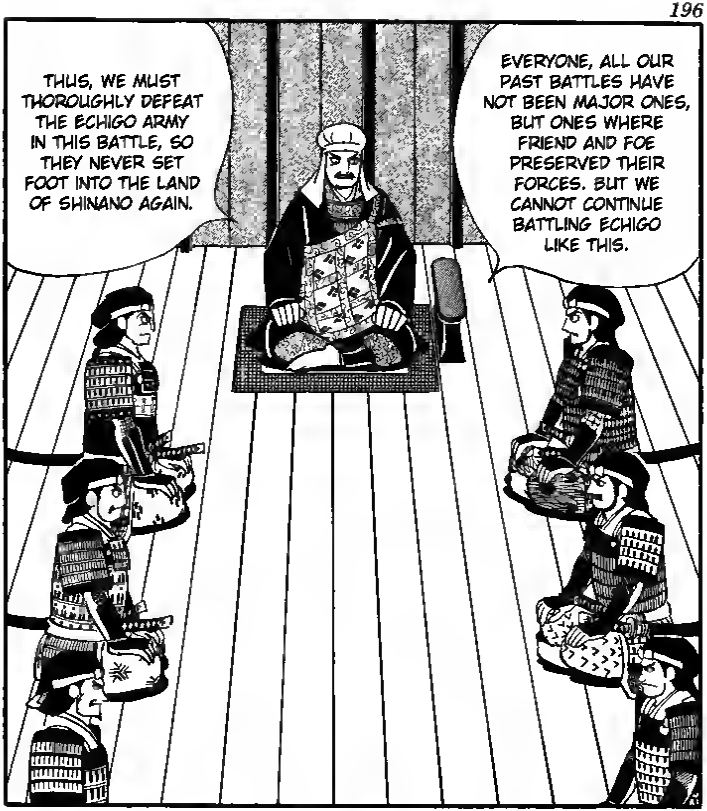
NO, HE WILL NOT.

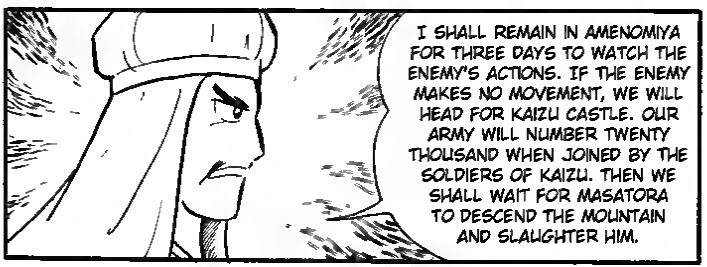
DO YOU SUPPOSE MASATORA WILL MEET US IN BATTLE?

HE IS DRINKING BECAUSE HE HAS NO STRATEGY.
SO DOES HE HAVE SOME OTHER STRATEGY ...?

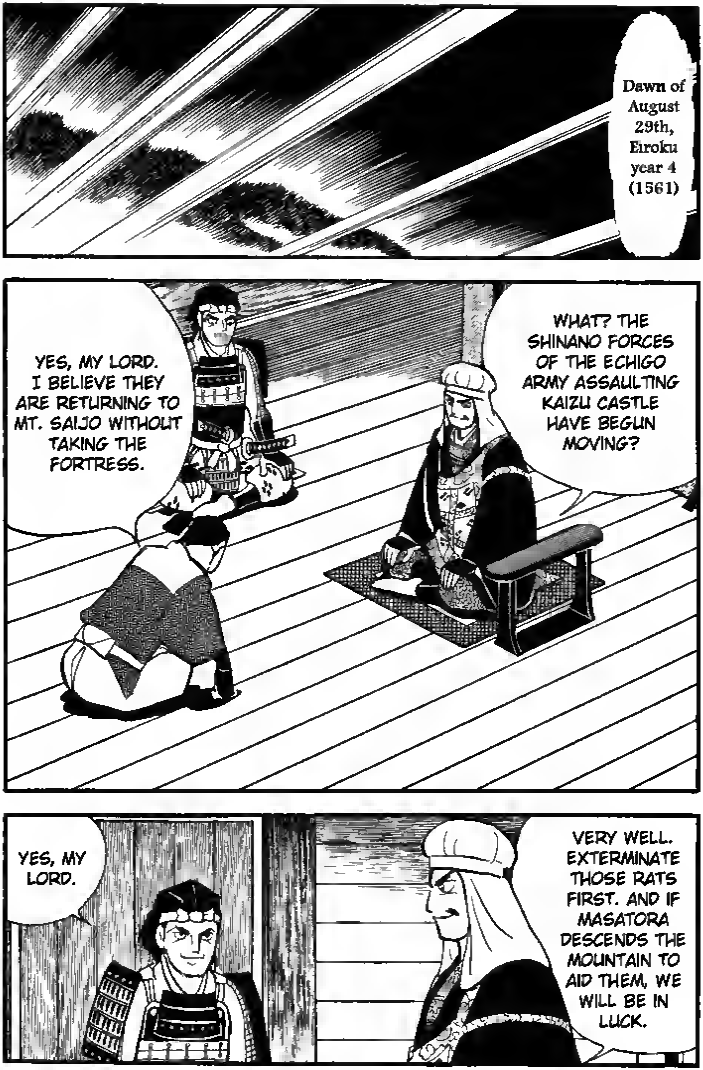

OF THE THIRTEEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS OF THE ECHIGO ARMY, TWO THOUSAND HAVE BEEN SENT TO KAIZU CASTLE, LEAVING ELEVEN THOUSAND ON MT. SAIJO. COMPARED TO THAT, WE HAVE SEVENTEEN THOUSAND. A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WOULD ENSURE OUR VICTORY. MASATORA WILL NOT ENGAGE IN A BATTLE HE CANNOT WIN.


THIS LAND IS COMPOSED OF MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, AND A SMALL BASIN IN BETWEEN. TO WIN BY MAKING USE OF THE TERRAIN, ONE MUST EXPLOIT THE MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS TO THEIR FULLEST. THE ENEMY HAS THE MOUNTAIN NOW. HE WILL DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN IF WE HAVE OUR BACKS TO THE RIVER, BUT OTHERWISE HE WILL NOT.

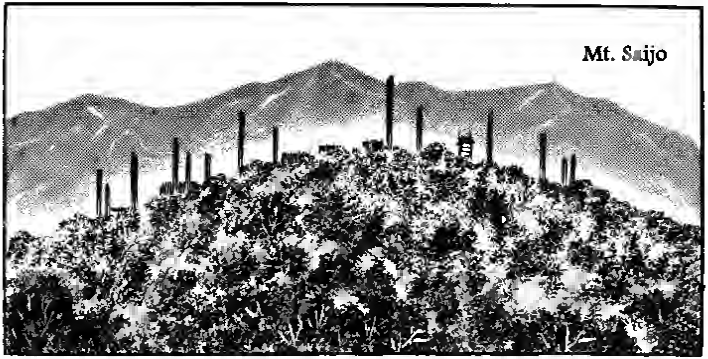

THUS, WE MUST THOROUGHLY DEFEAT THE ECHIGO ARMY IN THIS BATTLE, SO THEY NEVER SET FOOT INTO THE LAND OF SHINANO AGAIN.
EVERYONE, ALL OUR PAST BATTLES HAVE NOT BEEN MAJOR ONES, BUT ONES WHERE FRIEND AND FOE PRESERVED THEIR FORCES. BUT WE CANNOT CONTINUE BATTLING ECHIGO LIKE THIS.


I SHALL REMAIN IN AMENOMIYA FOR THREE DAYS TO WATCH THE ENEMY'S ACTIONS. IF THE ENEMY MAKES NO MOVEMENT, WE WILL HEAD FOR KAIZU CASTLE. OUR ARMY WILL NUMBER TWENTY THOUSAND WHEN JOINED BY THE SOLDIERS OF KAIZU. THEN WE SHALL WAIT FOR MASATORA TO DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN AND SLAUGHTER HIM.

THEY WILL.
WILL THE ECHIGO ARMY DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN?
AS THE DAYS PASS, IT WILL BECOME COLDER, AND FOOD WILL BECOME SCARCE. THEY CANNOT REMAIN ATOP THAT MOUNTAIN FOR LONG.
YES, MY LORD!
REMEMBER, DO NOT KEEP YOUR EYES OFF THE ENEMY!

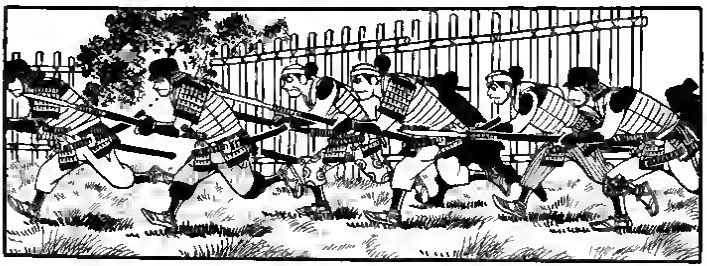

Dawn of August 29th, Eiroku year 4 (1561)
WHAT? THE SHINANO FORCES OF THE ECHIGO ARMY ASSAULTING KAIZU CASTLE HAVE BEGUN MOVING?
YES, MY LORD. I BELIEVE THEY ARE RETURNING TO MT. SAIJO WITHOUT TAKING THE FORTRESS.
VERY WELL. EXTERMINATE THOSE RATS FIRST. AND IF MASATORA DESCENDS THE MOUNTAIN TO AID THEM, WE WILL BE IN LUCK.
YES, MY LORD.

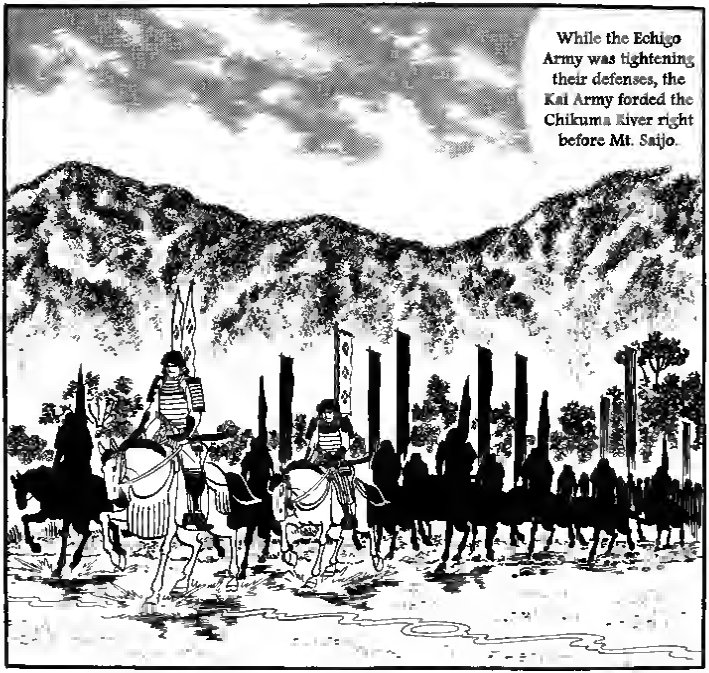
The Takeda's war drums resounded.
The Centipedes rushed to each division.

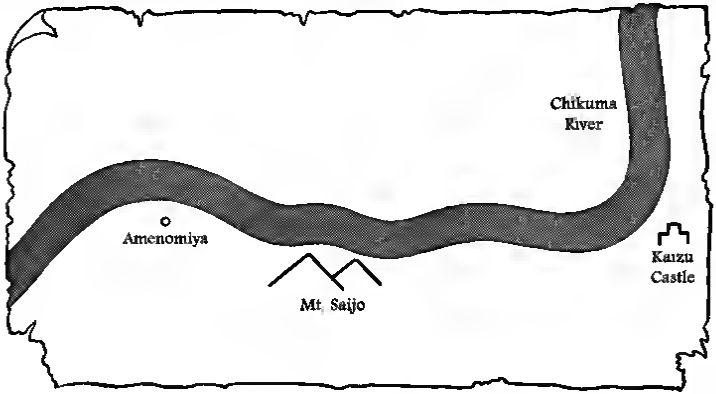

Mt. Saijo

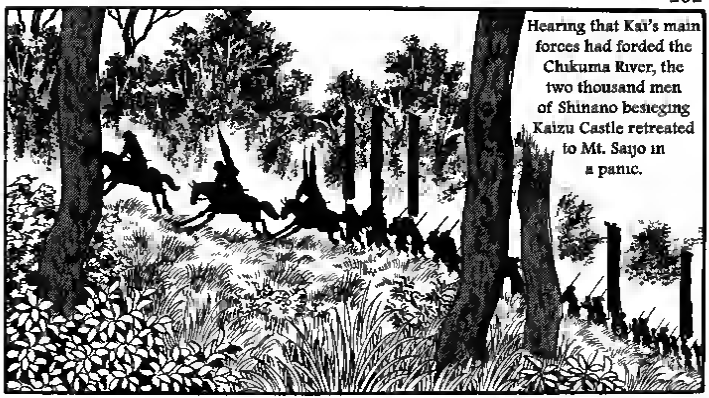
THEY ARE SIGNALLING AN ATTACK! TIGHTEN OUR DEFENSES!

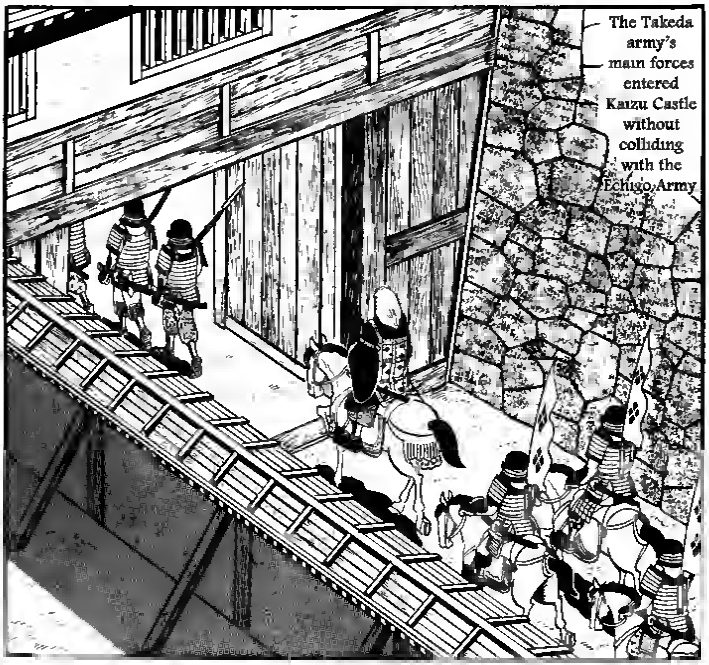
THAT'S THE TAKEDA'S WAR DRUMS!




While the Echigo Army was tightening their defenses, the Kai Army forded the Chikuma River right before Mt. Saijo.


Chikuma River
Amenomiya
Mt. Saijo
Kaizu Castle


Hearing that Kai's main forces had forded the Chikuma River, the two thousand men of Shinano besieging Kaizu Castle retreated to Mt. Saijo in a panic.

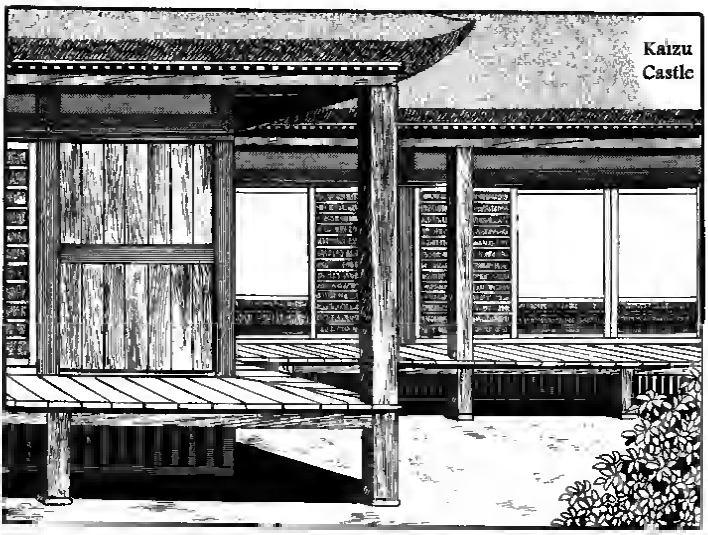

The Takeda army's main forces entered Kaizu Castle without colliding with the Echigo Army

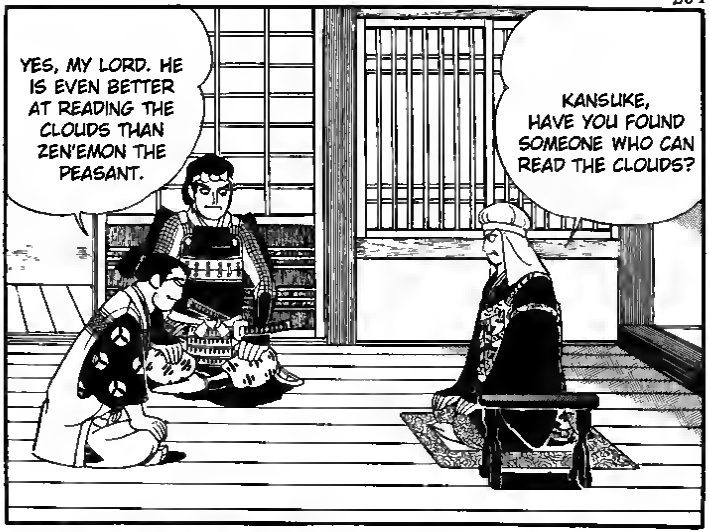
TAKEDA SHINGEN

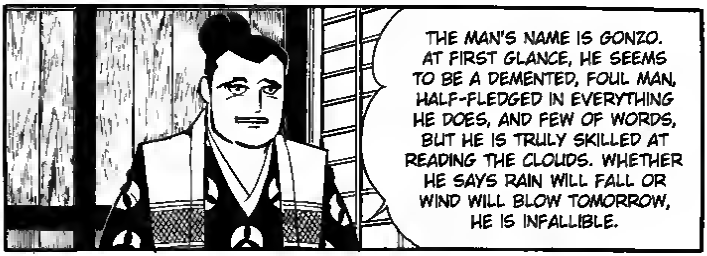
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 52

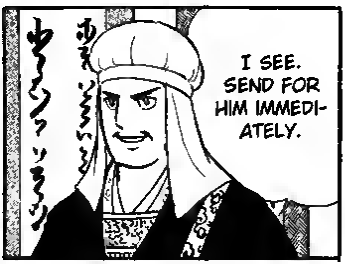
Chapter 53: Night Before the Battle

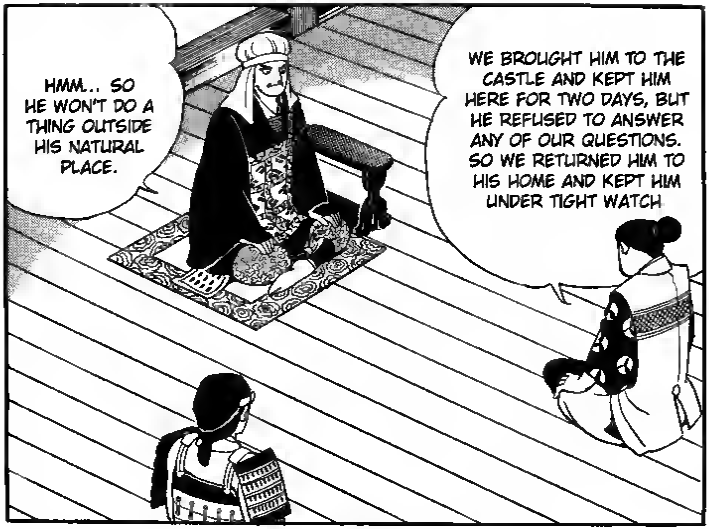


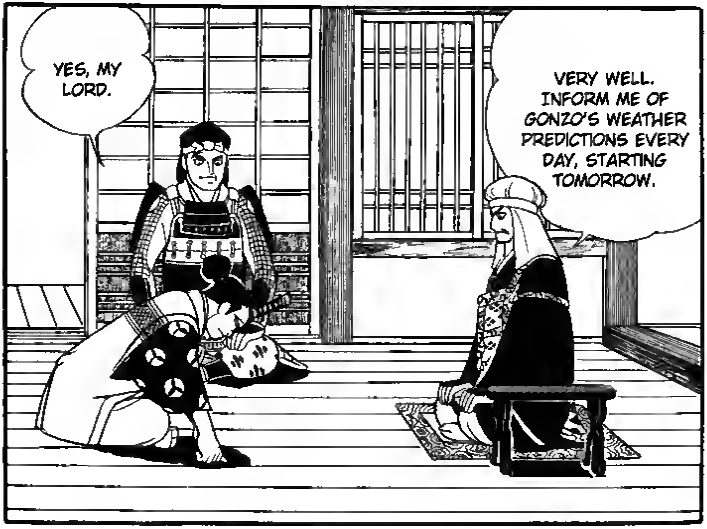

KANSUKE, HAVE YOU FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN READ THE CLOUDS?
YES, MY LORD. HE IS EVEN BETTER AT READING THE CLOUDS THAN ZEN'EMON THE PEASANT.


THE MAN'S NAME IS GONZO. AT FIRST GLANCE, HE SEEMS TO BE A DEMENTED, FOUL MAN, HALF-FLEDGED IN EVERYTHING HE DOES, AND FEW OF WORDS, BUT HE IS TRULY SKILLED AT READING THE CLOUDS. WHETHER HE SAYS RAIN WILL FALL OR WIND WILL BLOW TOMORROW, HE IS INFALLIBLE.

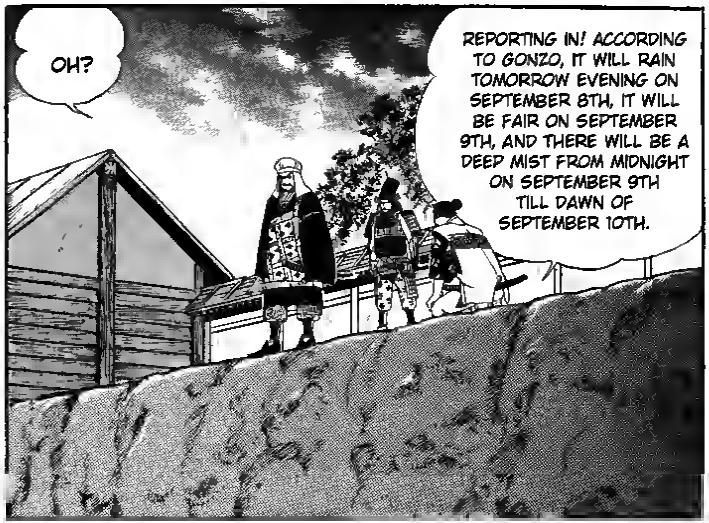
WELL...


I SEE. SEND FOR HIM IMMEDIATELY.

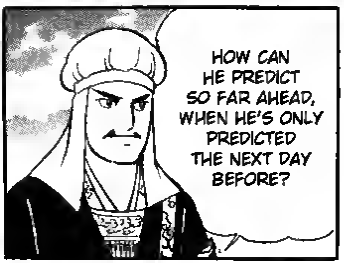

HMM... SO HE WON'T DO A THING OUTSIDE HIS NATURAL PLACE.
WE BROUGHT HIM TO THE CASTLE AND KEPT HIM HERE FOR TWO DAYS, BUT HE REFUSED TO ANSWER ANY OF OUR QUESTIONS. SO WE RETURNED HIM TO HIS HOME AND KEPT HIM UNDER TIGHT WATCH

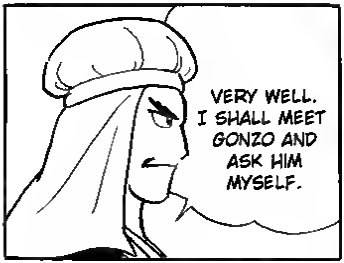

YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL. INFORM ME OF GONZO'S WEATHER PREDICTIONS EVERY DAY, STARTING TOMORROW.

September 7th

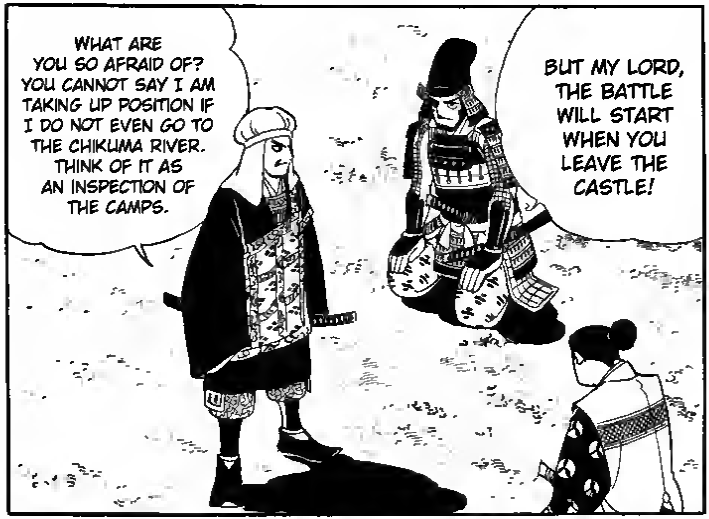

OH?
REPORTING IN! ACCORDING TO GONZO, IT WILL RAIN TOMORROW EVENING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, IT WILL BE FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, AND THERE WILL BE A DEEP MIST FROM MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 9TH TILL DAWN OF SEPTEMBER 10TH.

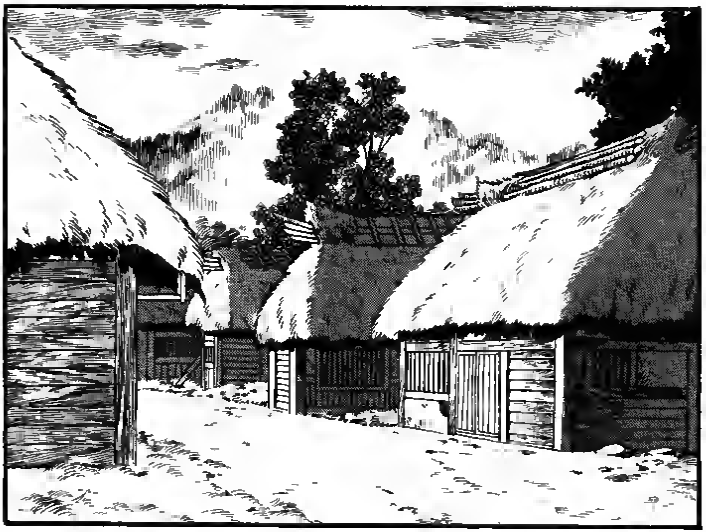
I ASKED GONZO, BUT HE DID NOT GIVE A REASON. HE SIMPLY SAID IT WAS SO.

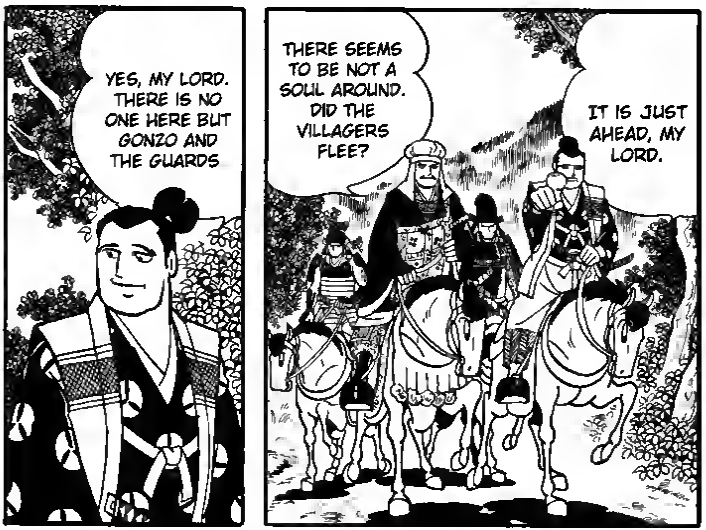

HOW CAN HE PREDICT SO FAR AHEAD, WHEN HE'S ONLY PREDICTED THE NEXT DAY BEFORE?

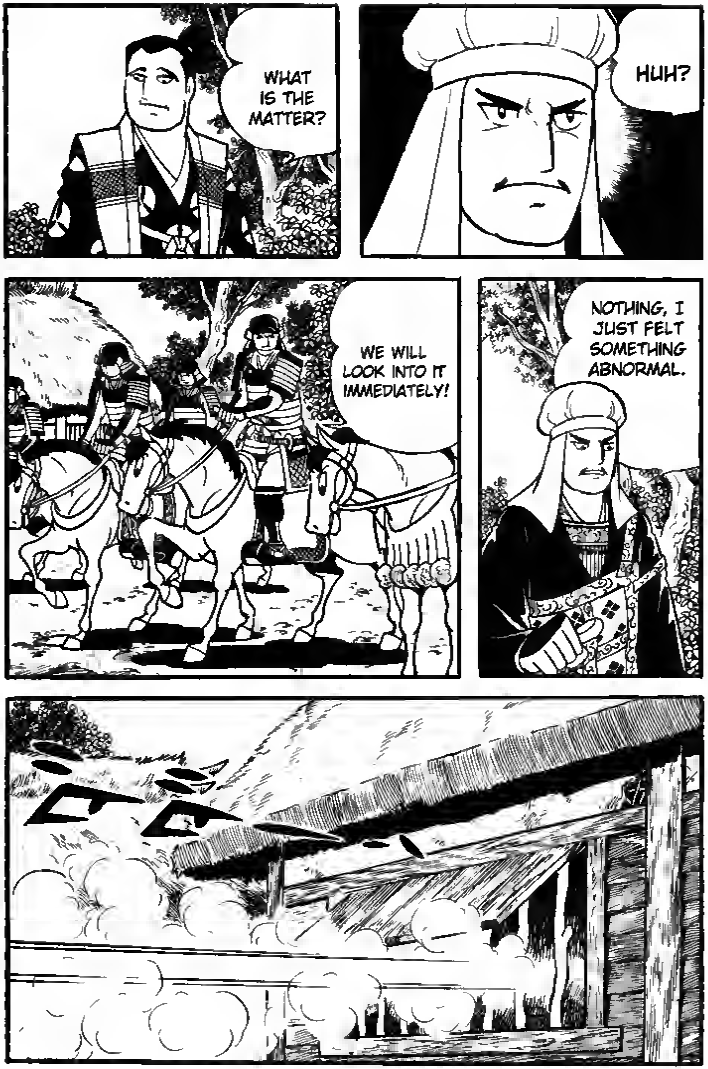

VERY WELL. I SHALL MEET GONZO AND ASK HIM MYSELF.

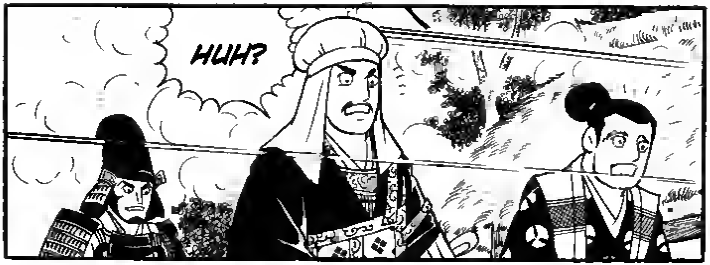
HMM...


WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF? YOU CANNOT SAY I AM TAKING UP POSITION IF I DO NOT EVEN GO TO THE CHIKUMA RIVER. THINK OF IT AS AN INSPECTION OF THE CAMPS.
BUT MY LORD, THE BATTLE WILL START WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CASTLE!

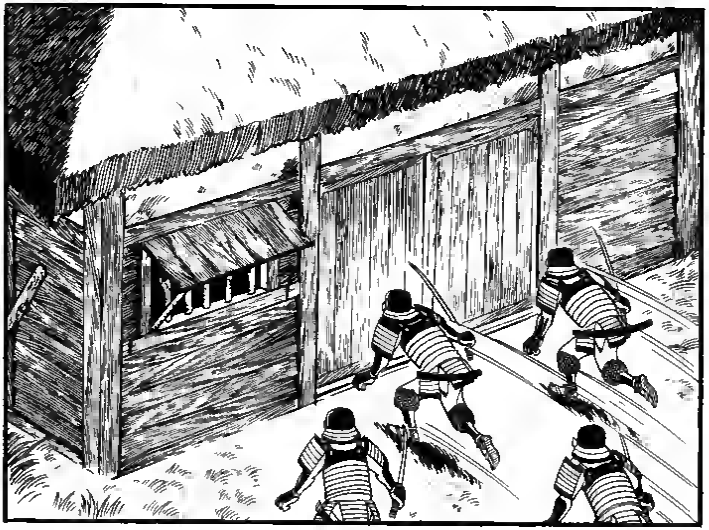


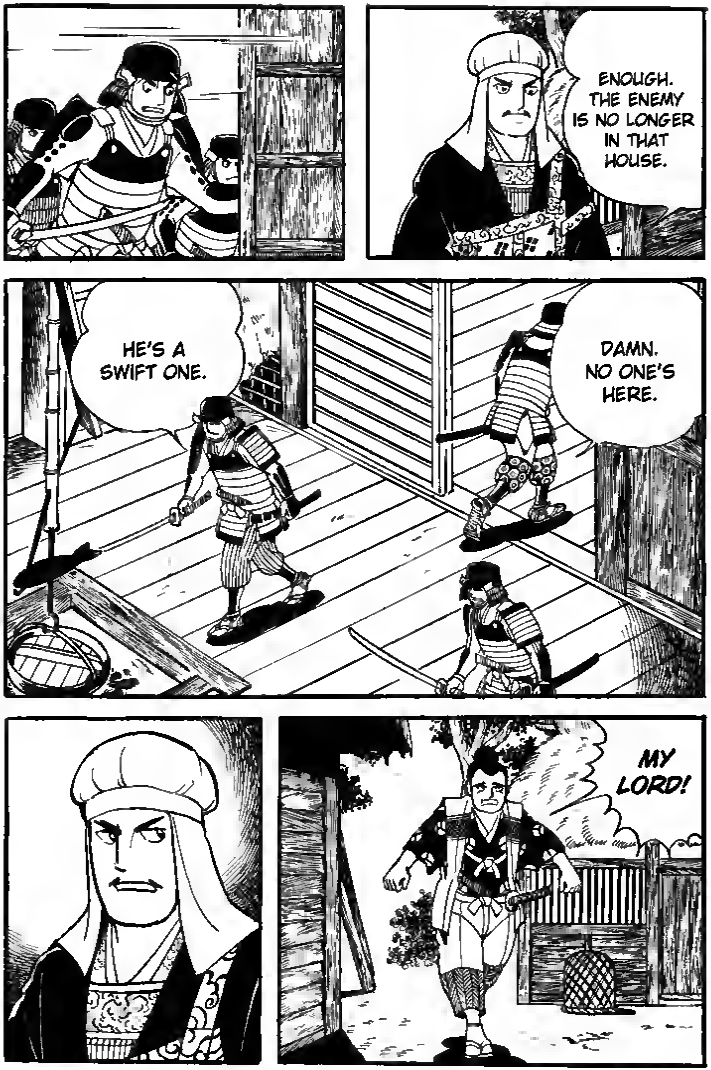

YES, MY LORD. THERE IS NO ONE HERE BUT GONZO AND THE GUARDS
THERE SEEMS TO BE NOT A SOUL AROUND. DID THE VILLAGERS FLEE?
IT IS JUST AHEAD, MY LORD.


WHAT IS THE MATTER?
HUH?
WE WILL LOOK INTO IT IMMEDIATELY!
NOTHING, I JUST FELT SOMETHING ABNORMAL.


HUH?

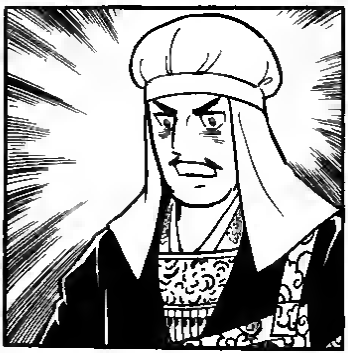
THIEF!

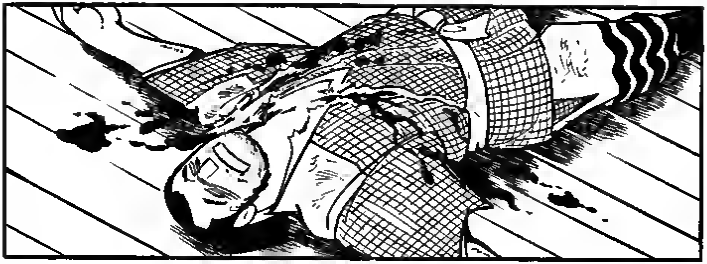


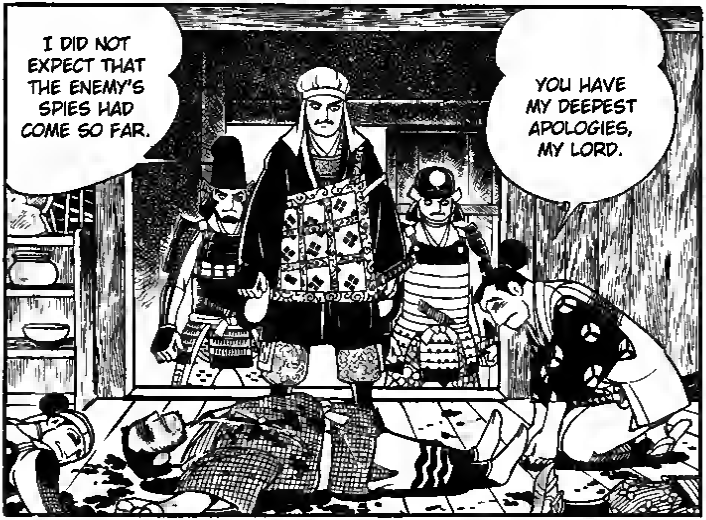

ENOUGH. THE ENEMY IS NO LONGER IN THAT HOUSE.
HE'S A SWIFT ONE.
DAMN. NO ONE'S HERE.
MY LORD!

WHAT
!?

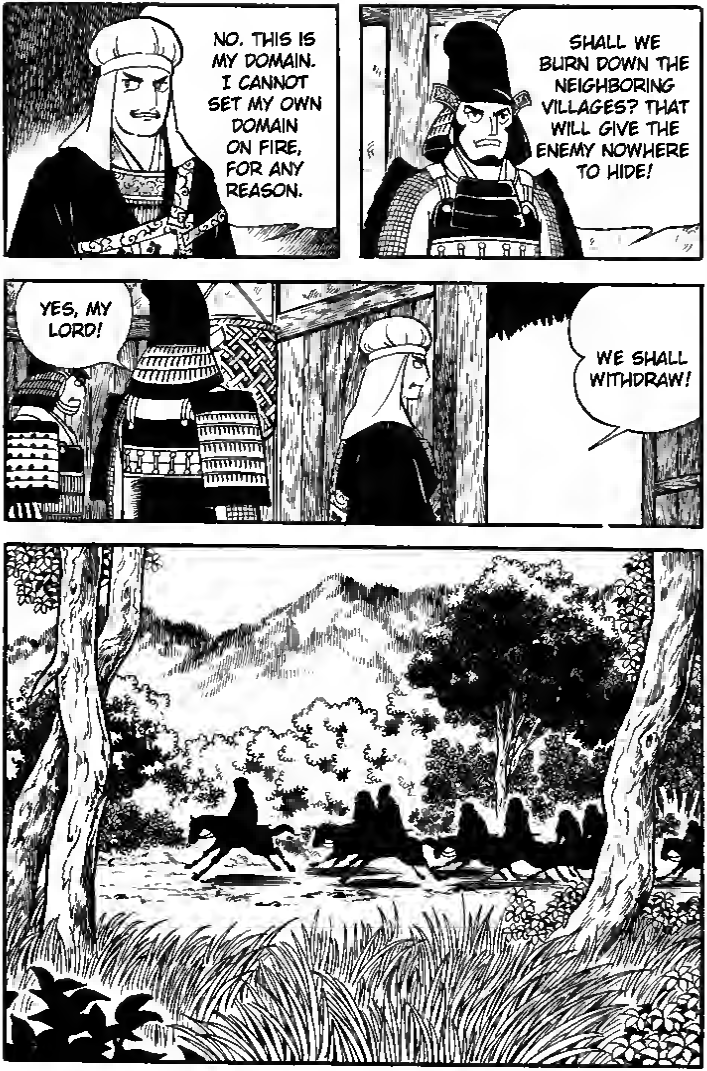
GONZO
HAS BEEN
SLAIN!

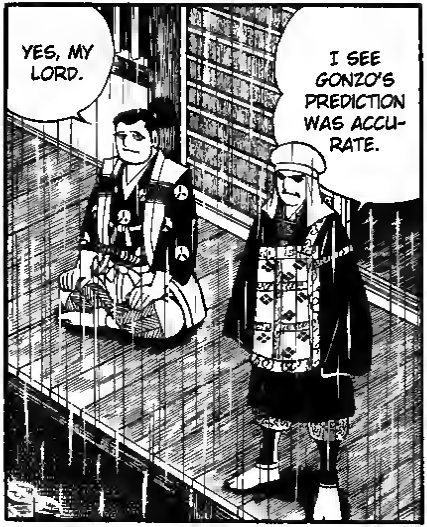


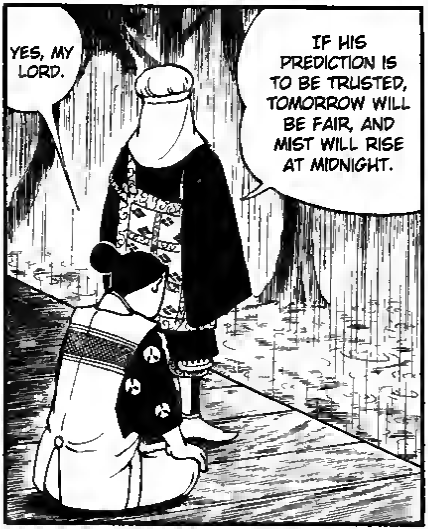



I DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE ENEMY'S SPIES HAD COME SO FAR.
YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES, MY LORD.

WE MUST ASSUME NOW THAT THE ENEMY IS AWARE OF ALL OUR ACTIONS.

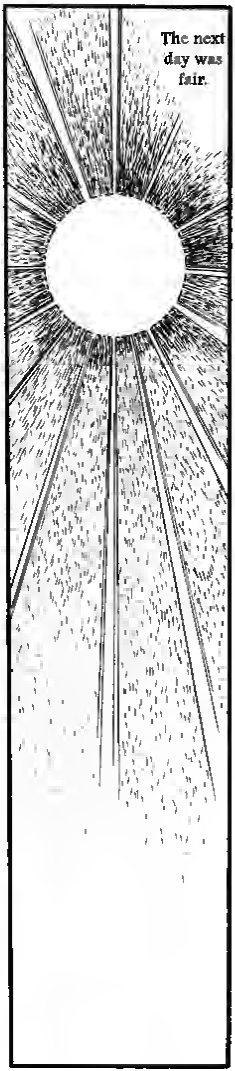

NO. THIS IS MY DOMAIN. I CANNOT SET MY OWN DOMAIN ON FIRE, FOR ANY REASON.
SHALL WE BURN DOWN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGES? THAT WILL GIVE THE ENEMY NOWHERE TO HIDE!
YES, MY LORD!
WE SHALL WITHDRAW!

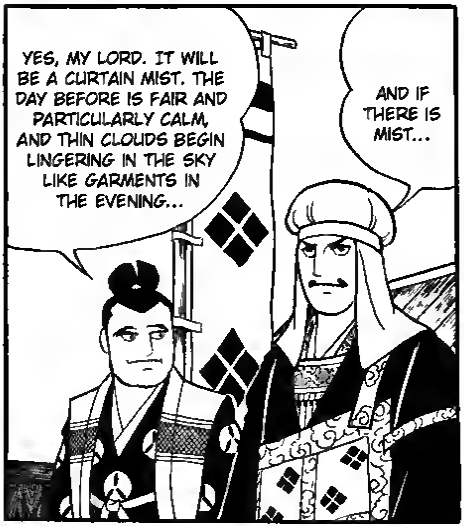

YES, MY LORD.
I SEE GONZO'S PREDICTION WAS ACCURATE.


YES, MY LORD.
IF HIS PREDICTION IS TO BE TRUSTED, TOMORROW WILL BE FAIR, AND MIST WILL RISE AT MIDNIGHT.

As Gonzo had predicted, a heavy rain began to fall in the evening of September 8th.

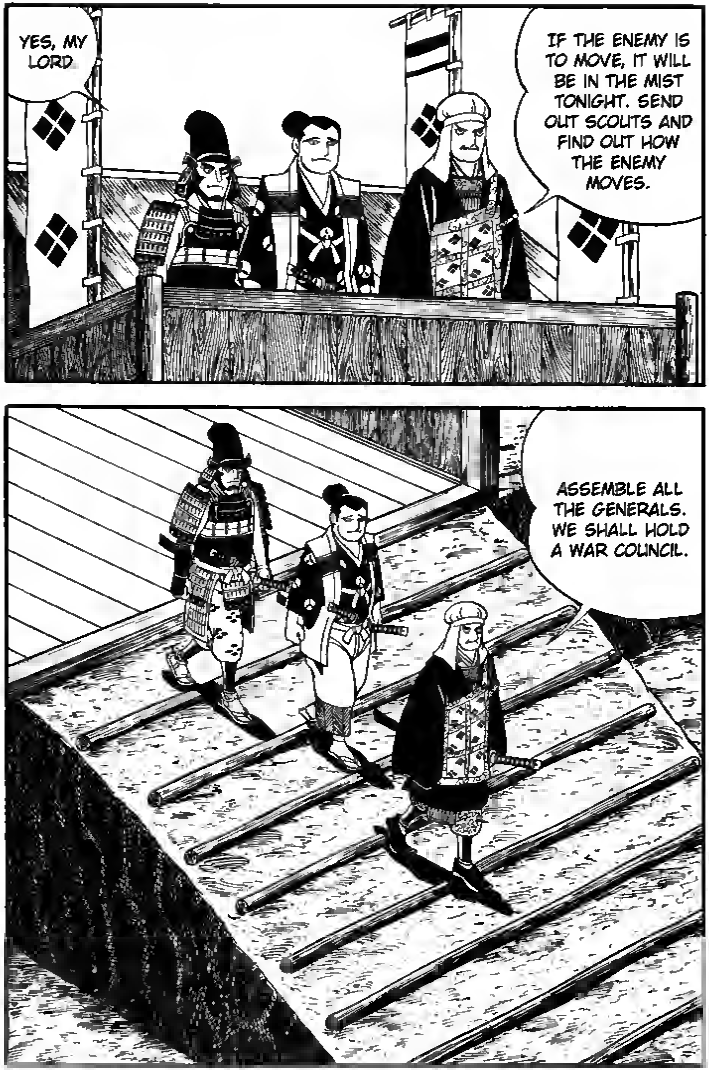
THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE MIST AT MIDNIGHT.
I SEE TODAY'S PREDICTION WAS ACCURATE.

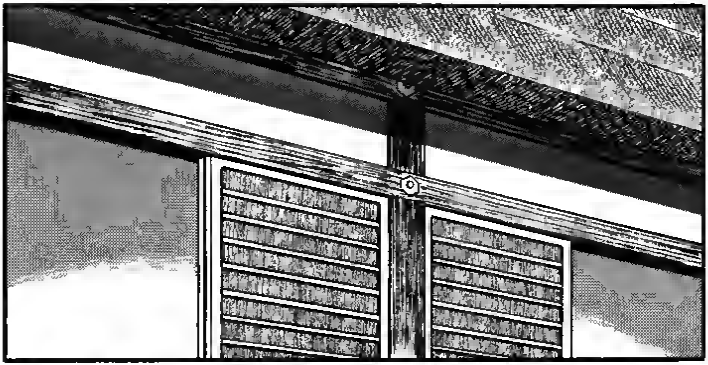

The next day was fair.

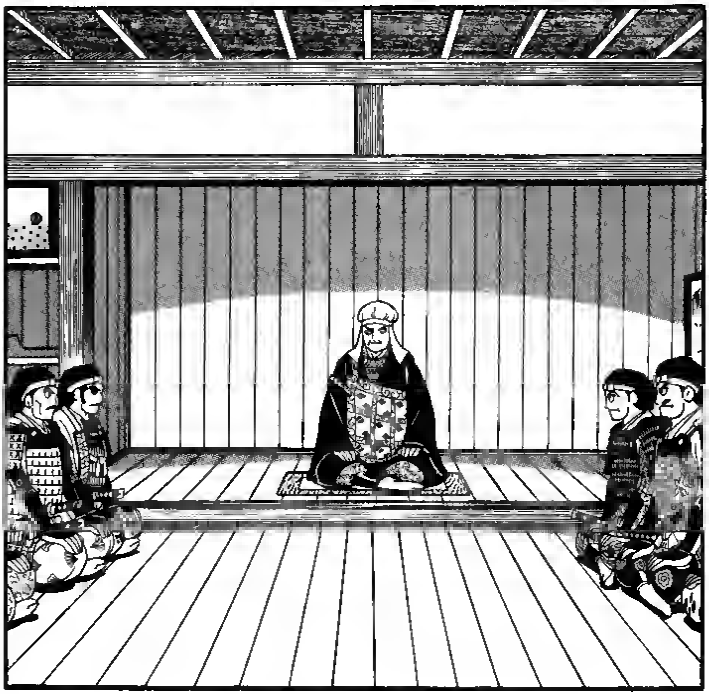

YES, MY LORD. IT WILL BE A CURTAIN MIST. THE DAY BEFORE IS FAIR AND PARTICULARLY CALM, AND THIN CLOUDS BEGIN LINGERING IN THE SKY LIKE GARMENTS IN THE EVENING...
AND IF THERE IS MIST...

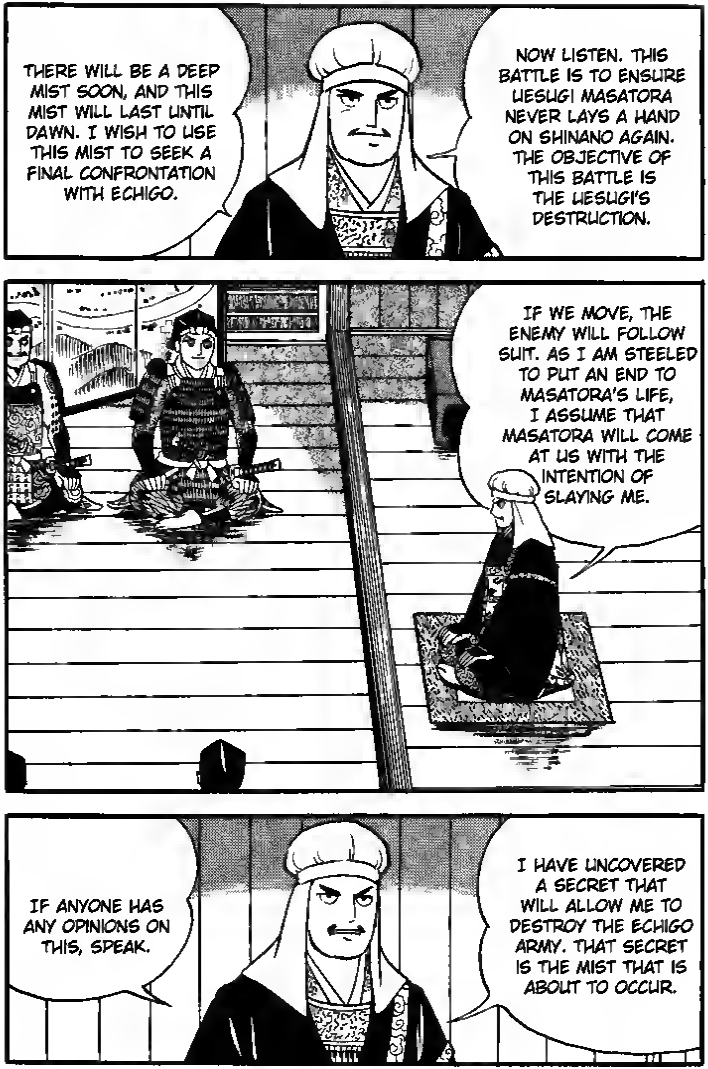
YES, MY LORD.
THE CURTAIN MIST OCCURS BEFORE DAWN, AND DOES NOT LIFT UNTIL THE SUN RISES... CORRECT?
OH!
MY LORD!

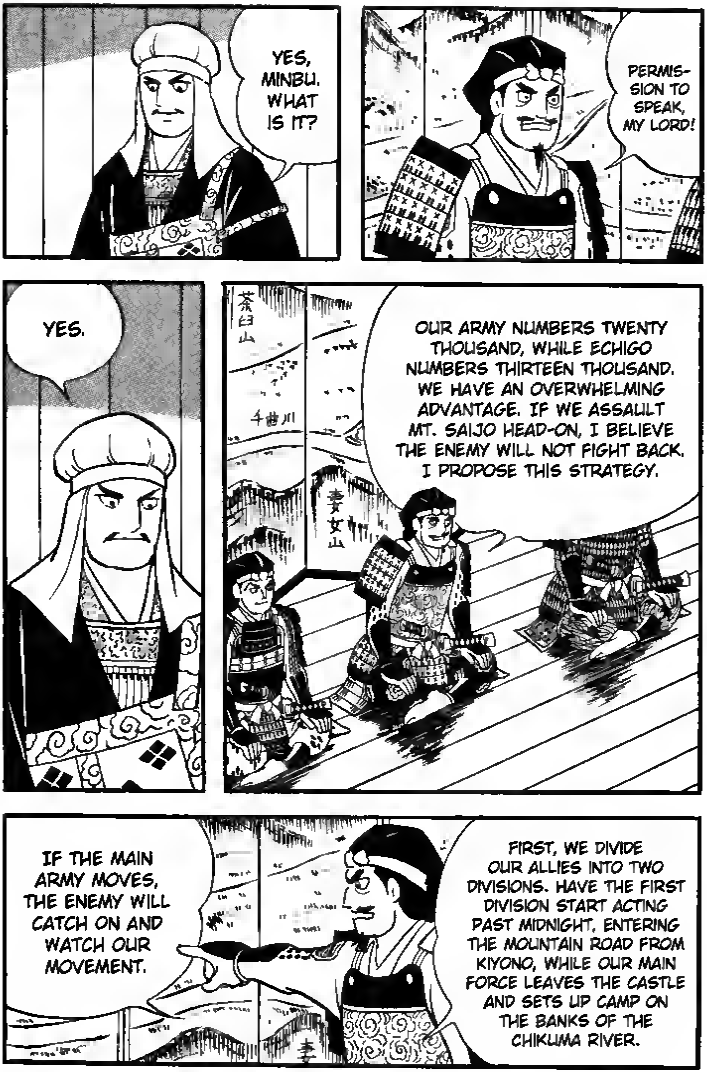
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MY LORD, TODAY IS COLDER THAN NORMAL.
I SUPPOSE THOSE ARE THE THIN CLOUDS LIKE GARMENTS THAT ZEN'EMON THE PEASANT SPOKE OF.
YES, MY LORD.
THIS MEANS ALL THE CONDITIONS FOR CURTAIN MIST HAVE BEEN MET.
IF ONLY ZEN'EMON WERE HERE...
AND THEY SAY YOU CANNOT EVEN SEE A SUN IN FRONT OF YOU IN CURTAIN MIST. WHEN WILL THIS MIST LIFT?
YES, MY LORD?
SABU-ROBE.


YES, MY LORD.
IF THE ENEMY IS TO MOVE, IT WILL BE IN THE MIST TONIGHT. SEND OUT SCOUTS AND FIND OUT HOW THE ENEMY MOVES.
ASSEMBLE ALL THE GENERALS. WE SHALL HOLD A WAR COUNCIL.





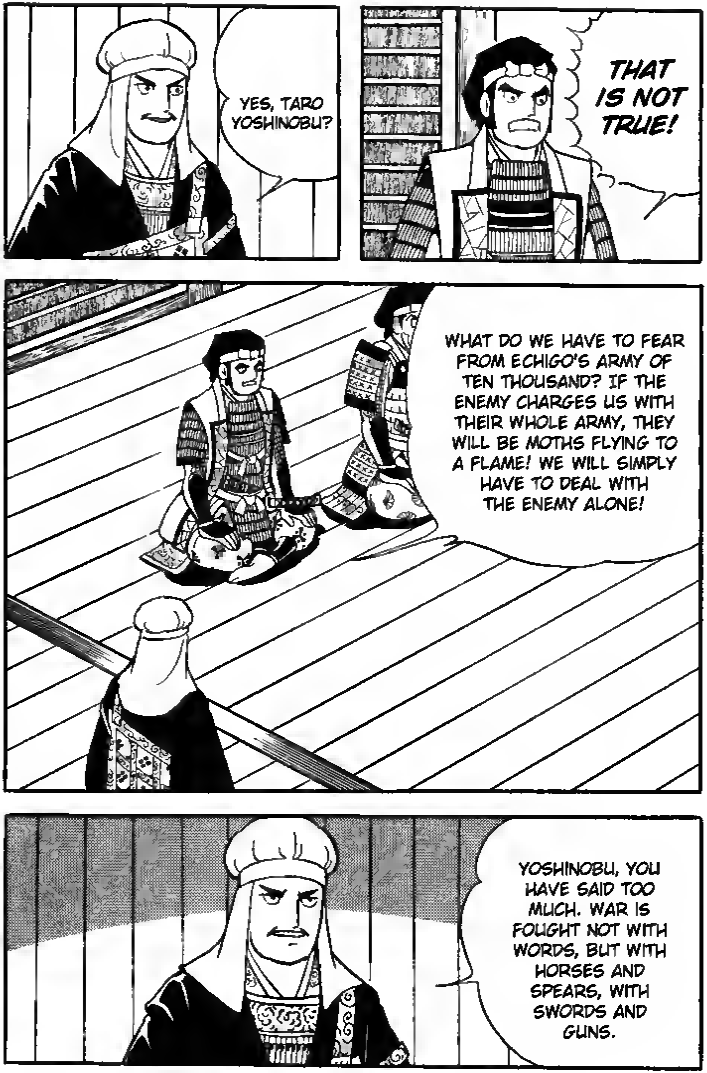

THERE WILL BE A DEEP MIST SOON, AND THIS MIST WILL LAST UNTIL DAWN. I WISH TO USE THIS MIST TO SEEK A FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH ECHIGO.
NOW LISTEN. THIS BATTLE IS TO ENSURE UESUGI MASATORA NEVER LAYS A HAND ON SHINANO AGAIN. THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BATTLE IS THE UESUGI'S DESTRUCTION.
IF WE MOVE, THE ENEMY WILL FOLLOW SUIT. AS I AM STEELED TO PUT AN END TO MASATORA'S LIFE, I ASSUME THAT MASATORA WILL COME AT US WITH THE INTENTION OF SLAYING ME.
IF ANYONE HAS ANY OPINIONS ON THIS, SPEAK.
I HAVE UNCOVERED A SECRET THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO DESTROY THE ECHIGO ARMY. THAT SECRET IS THE MIST THAT IS ABOUT TO OCCUR.


YES, MINBU. WHAT IS IT?
PERMISSION TO SPEAK, MY LORD!
YES.
OUR ARMY NUMBERS TWENTY THOUSAND, WHILE ECHIGO NUMBERS THIRTEEN THOUSAND. WE HAVE AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE. IF WE ASSAULT MT. SAIJO HEAD-ON, I BELIEVE THE ENEMY WILL NOT FIGHT BACK. I PROPOSE THIS STRATEGY.
IF THE MAIN ARMY MOVES, THE ENEMY WILL CATCH ON AND WATCH OUR MOVEMENT.
FIRST, WE DIVIDE OUR ALLIES INTO TWO DIVISIONS. HAVE THE FIRST DIVISION START ACTING PAST MIDNIGHT, ENTERING THE MOUNTAIN ROAD FROM KIYONO, WHILE OUR MAIN FORCE LEAVES THE CASTLE AND SETS UP CAMP ON THE BANKS OF THE CHIKUMA RIVER.

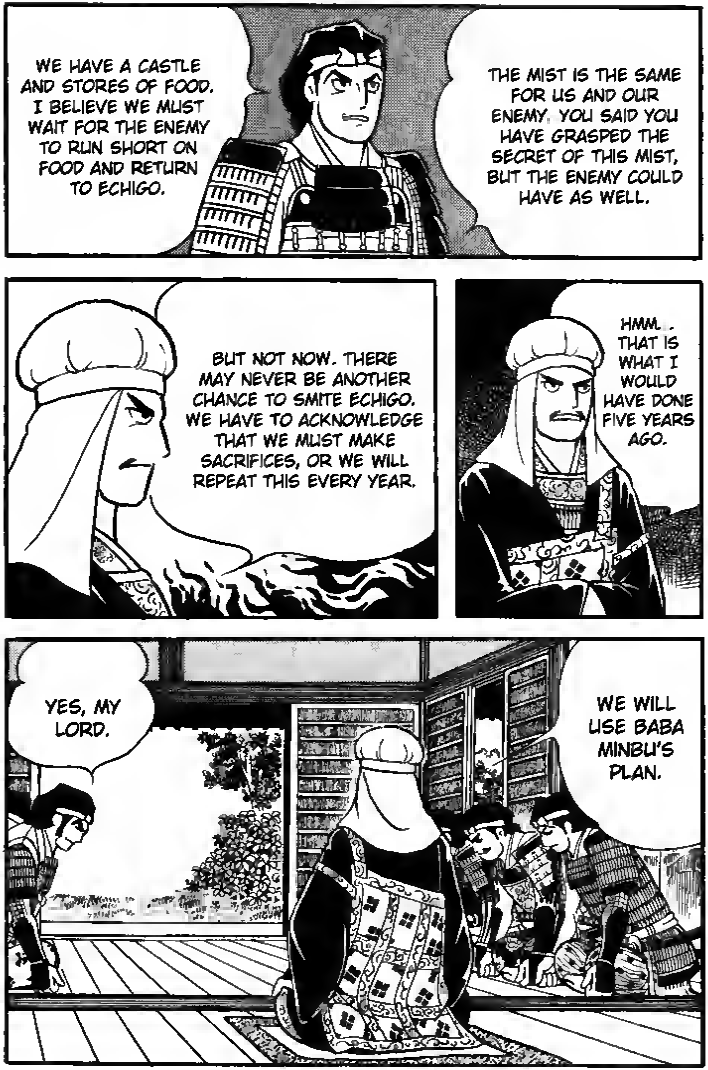
THAT WILL FORCE THE ENEMY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN REMAINING ON MT. SAIJO AND STRIKE BACK, AND SALLYING FORTH.
THEN WE HAVE THE DETACHMENT ENTER THE MOUNTAIN PATH FROM KIYONO AND CLIMB MT. SAIJO FROM SENNIN-GA-KUBO, STRIKING THEM FROM BEHIND.
HOWEVER, OUR ALLIES' DETACHMENT WILL ONLY FEINT ENTERING THE MOUNTAINS, AND WILL ONLY HIDE IN THE MOUNTAIN BEHIND KIYONO, WAIT FOR THE ENEMY TO MOVE, AND STRIKE THEM FROM BEHIND.
THE ENEMY WILL CONSIDER SALLYING FORTH TO ASSAULT THE MAIN TAKEDA ARMY TO BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN BEING ASSAULTED FROM BOTH SIDES. THIS IS BECAUSE A LARGE ARMY CANNOT MOVE EASILY IN THESE MOUNTAINS.
千曲川
THEN DAY WILL BREAK, AND THE MIST WILL LIFT.
BUT WHAT IF THE ENEMY DOES NOT DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN?

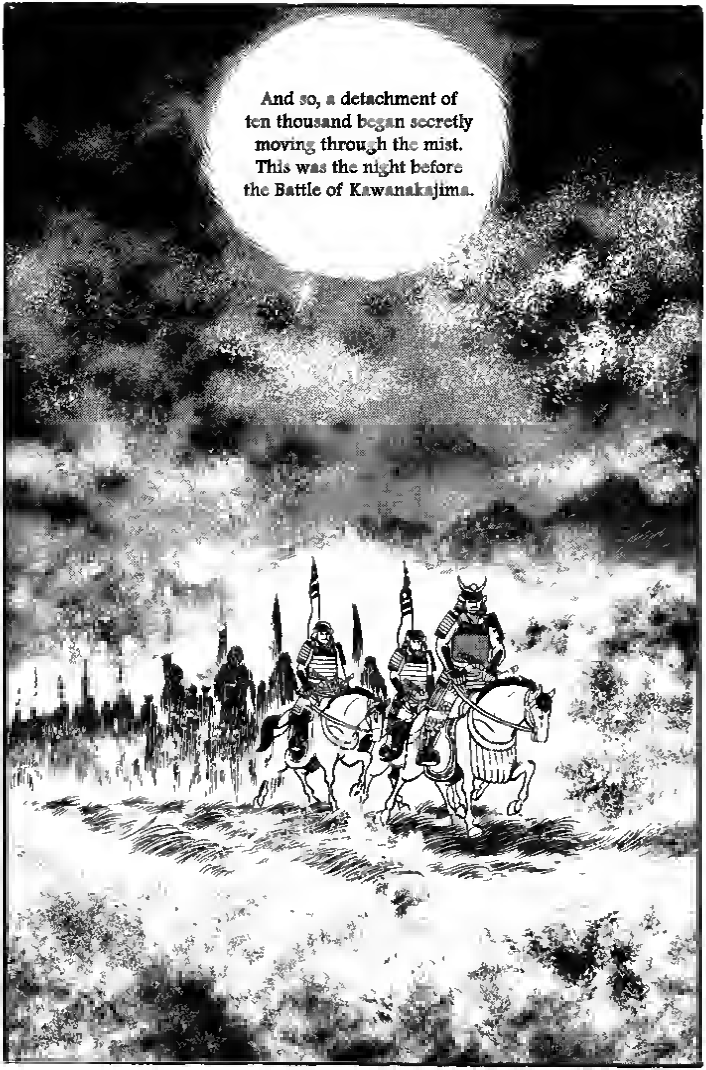
WE WILL CREATE A BASE FOR ATTACK BEHIND MT. SAIJO, AND SLOWLY ASSAULT UP MT. SAIJO. THEN THE ENEMY WILL HAVE TO DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN.
YES. OUR ALLIES WILL HIDE IN THE MIST, AND MAKE IT SEEM THAT THEY WILL STRIKE THE ENEMY FROM BEHIND.
I SEE. AND WE ACT IN THE MIST, CORRECT?
THE MIST WILL LIFT AT DAWN. I BELIEVE THAT WILL BE WHEN THE ENEMY WILL DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN. I DOUBT THEY WOULD DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN IN THE MIST AND THE DARK OF NIGHT.
SO WHEN DO YOU SUPPOSE THE ENEMY WILL DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN AND CHALLENGE THE MAIN FORCE?
THE ENEMY WILL LURE OUR ALLIES' DETACHMENT DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS, THEN STRIKE AT OUR MAIN FORCE, LEAVING TWO OR THREE THOUSAND BEHIND.

YES, MY LORD AND OUR MAIN FORCE WILL ALSO BE TEN THOUSAND.
I SEE. SO THE ENEMY WILL NUMBER TEN THOUSAND.
THE BATTLE WILL BE MORE OR LESS EVEN FOR A WHILE, BUT ONCE OUR DETACHMENT ASSAULTS FROM BEHIND, THE ECHIGO ARMY WILL BE DESTROYED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND WHAT IF OUR ENEMY REMAINS A STEP AHEAD OF US?
THAT WOULD BE TO OUR DISADVANTAGE.
WHAT IF OUR ENEMY FIGURES OUT OUR PLAN AND ATTACKS THE MAIN FORCE BEFORE THE MIST LIFTS? OUR DETACHMENT WOULD WAIT IN THE MOUNTAINS IN VAIN.


YES, TARO YOSHINOBU?
THAT IS NOT TRUE!
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO FEAR FROM ECHIGO'S ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND? IF THE ENEMY CHARGES US WITH THEIR WHOLE ARMY, THEY WILL BE MOTHS FLYING TO A FLAME! WE WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMY ALONE!
YOSHINOBU, YOU HAVE SAID TOO MUCH. WAR IS FOUGHT NOT WITH WORDS, BUT WITH HORSES AND SPEARS, WITH SWORDS AND GUNS.

OBU HYOBU, YOU ARE NOT SAYING THIS TO SUPPORT YOSHINOBU AS HIS TEACHER, ARE YOU?
I BELIEVE THE YOUNG MASTER IS RIGHT. IF WE ARE EVEN, THE ECHIGO ARMY CANNOT STAND AGAINST THE HORSES AND SPEARS OF KAI.
HMM...
NO, I TRULY BELIEVE SO.
YES, MY LORD. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE MIST.
OBU SABUROBE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

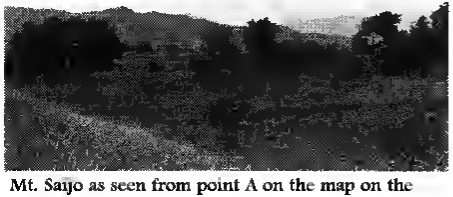

WE HAVE A CASTLE AND STORES OF FOOD. I BELIEVE WE MUST WAIT FOR THE ENEMY TO RUN SHORT ON FOOD AND RETURN TO ECHIGO.
THE MIST IS THE SAME FOR US AND OUR ENEMY. YOU SAID YOU HAVE GRASPED THE SECRET OF THIS MIST, BUT THE ENEMY COULD HAVE AS WELL.
BUT NOT NOW. THERE MAY NEVER BE ANOTHER CHANCE TO SMITE ECHIGO. WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE MUST MAKE SACRIFICES, OR WE WILL REPEAT THIS EVERY YEAR.
HMM. . THAT IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE FIVE YEARS AGO.
YES, MY LORD.
WE WILL USE BABA MINBU'S PLAN.


And so, a detachment of ten thousand began secretly moving through the mist. This was the night before the Battle of Kawanakajima.

The Mist – END

The Night Before Kawanakajima – The Warring States' Master's Battle

Amenomiya area, where the Kai Army set up their main camp (Mt. Saijo in background)

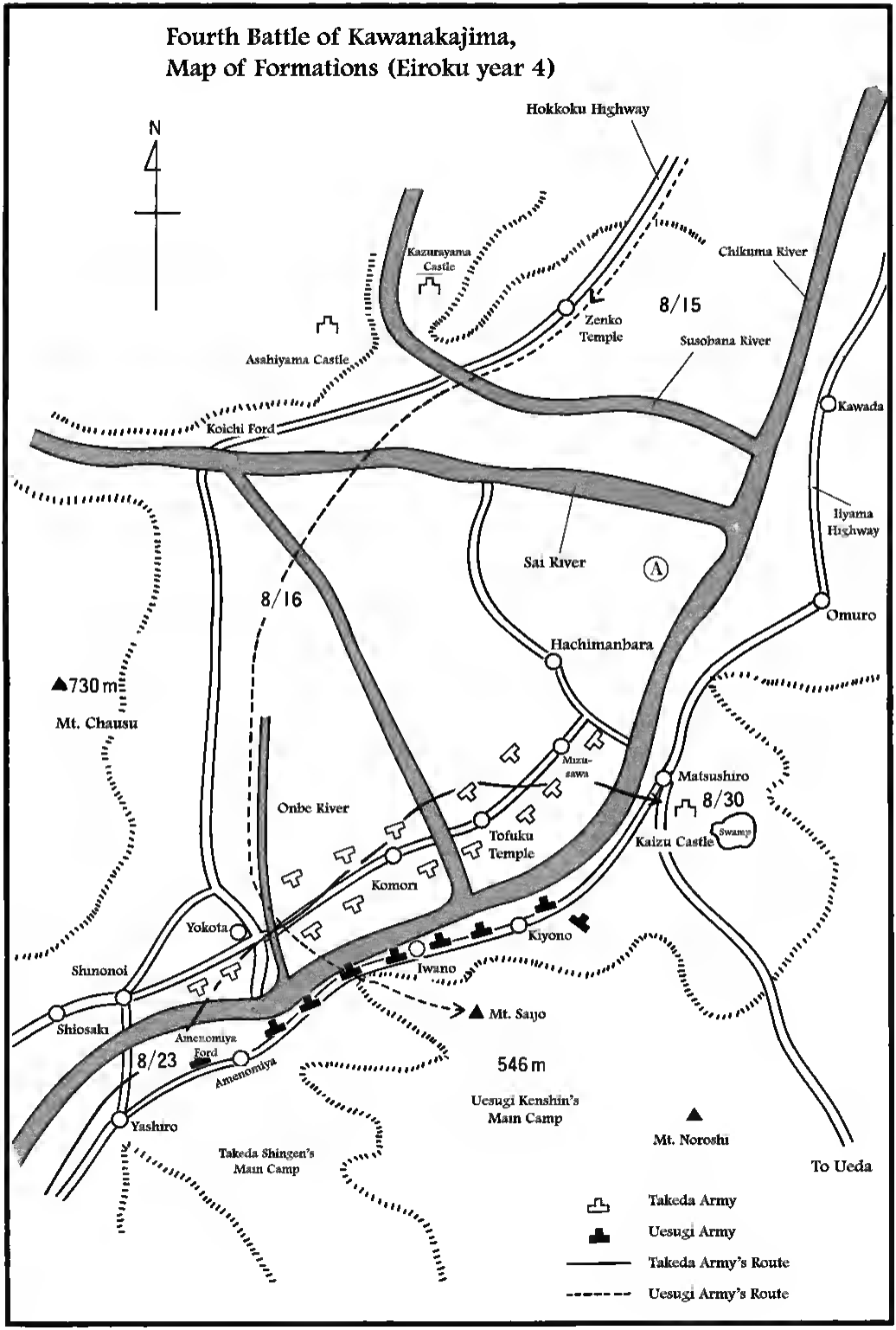


Mt. Saijo as seen from point A on the map on the next page

But this time, Shingen made the first move. While the Uesugi Army showed no sign of moving, Shingen, awaiting to oust them from Mt. Sajio, decided that he should not remain in Amanomiya, and ordered his army to enter Kaizu Castle on the 29th. This succeeded, and Shingen safely entered the castle, and held a war council to prepare for the coming final battle. These are the circumstances behind the night before the Battle of Kawanakajima.

On August 14th, Eiroku year 4 (1561), Uesugi Kenshin (Masatora) led an army of thirteen thousand, and marched upon his enemy's new castle of Kaizu in southeast Kawanakajima. His army travelled south down the Hokkoku Highway and assembled at Zenko Temple. At the time, two thousand guards under Kosaka Danjo were stationed at Kaizu Castle, and immediately informed Shingen in Kofu through signal fires that Kenshin was coming. But the Uesugi Army cut across Kawanakajima and climbed Mt. Saijo near Iwano, and set up camp here, cutting off communications between Kaizu Castle and Kofu, and causing the castle soldiers to tremble in fear of the enemy looking down upon them. But why did Kenshin march his army deep enough into enemy territory to cut off their communications, and set up camp on Mt. Saijo, where he could be surrounded? Because "one cannot hunt a tiger's cub without entering the tiger's den". One could think of it as a clever luring strategy, throwing himself into danger to finally settle the score with Shingen.

Meanwhile, Shingen marched forth leading an army of five thousand on August 18th, marching his army to Suwa, then Nagakubo, then Koshigoe, there joining with the advance party of five thousand, and held a memorial service for the dead at Uedahara. This bold action called the "memorial service before the enemy" was actually to urge the generals of Shinano to assemble, and as a result, the army of Kai swelled up to number seventeen thousand. On the 22nd, Shingen learned by a messenger from Kaizu that the Uesugi were expanding to the right bank of the Chikuma River, and set up camp at Amanomiya, half a ri (2 kilometers) from the foot of Mt. Saijo instead of going straight for the right bank into Kaizu Castle, knowing that the enemy could attack on the bottleneck near Yashiro. This was done to cut off the Uesugi Army's escape routes and keep them on the mountain, in response to Kenshin's sacrificial resolve, while he himself could maintain contact with Shiozaki, Kamiyamada, and Ueda, and wait for the battle, and in doing so, Shingen lived up to his reputation as a prodigy. Shingen expanded to the left bank of the Chikuma River while facing Mt. Saijo, and both armies were once again in a stalemate.


Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima,
Map of Formations (Eiroku year 4)
N
Hokkoku Highway
Kazurayama Castle
Chikuma River
8/15
Zenko Temple
Susobana River
Asahiyama Castle
Koichi Ford
Kawada
Iiyama Highway
Sai River
A
8/16
Omuro
Hachimanbara
730 m
Mt. Chausu
Mizu-sawa
Matsushiro
8/30
Onbe River
Tofuku Temple
Kaizu Castle
Swamp
Komori
Yokota
Kiyono
Shunonoi
Iwano
Mt. Saijo
Shiosaki
Amenomiya Ford
8/23
Amenomiya
546 m
Uesugi Kenshin's Main Camp
Yashiro
Mt. Noroshi
Takeda Shingen's Main Camp
To Ueda
Takeda Army
Uesugi Army
Takeda Army's Route
Uesugi Army's Route

Kaizu Castle – Keystone of the Kai-Echigo Battle

Stone monument standing in the center of castle ruins

Map remaining in castle ruins (at the time of the han abolition)

Photography by Taniyama Shunichiro

Stone wall of watchtower ruins remaining in a corner of the castle

Stone arrangement near entrance of castle ruins

Kaizu Castle is in a strategic location on the banks of the Chikuma River, surrounded by mountains on three sides. It is a legendary castle said to have been built by Yamamoto Kansuke in a mere 80 days under Takeda Shingen's orders in September of Eiroku year 3 (1560), to prepare against the invasion of Uesugi Kenshin, and it was a ground-breaking castle for its time. The castle lord was Shingen's former favoured page, Kosaka Danjo, whom he trusted most. Though Shingen rarely built castles within the province of Kai, protected by signal towers and straight paths, he built a considerable number outside the province, particularly in Shinano. Among them, Kaizu Castle would later be considered a model of Kai-style castle building, and was only half a ri away from the Echigo's main camp on Mt. Saijo in the Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima in September of Eiroku year 4, and served as the base for the Kai Army. Though it was first constructed with earthen walls, stone walls were built by the castle lord Tamaru Naomasa in Keicho year 3 (1598), and it was renamed Matsushiro Castle. Today, only the remains of the inner citadel still stand, but if you climb the ruins of the watchtowers, Hachimanbara, the site of the legendary one-on-one battle, is within hailing distance.

Timetable of Events in Takeda Shingen (up until the current volume)

Eastern Year	Western Year	Event related to Shingen (Number in brackets indicates Shingen's age)	Events in the rest of the world
Onin 1	1467		Onin Rebellion occurs
Chokyo 2	1488		Ikko Uprising occurs in Kaga
Entoku 1	1489		Ashikaga Yoshimasa completes Ginkaku Temple
Meio 1	1492		Columbus discovers America
Eisho 14	1517		Lutheran Reformation
Taiei 1	1521	Born in Sekisui Temple on Mt Yogai, as the eldest son of Takeda Nobutora, guardian of Kai Childhood name was Taro (1)	Ashikaga Yoshiharu becomes twelfth Shogun
3	1523	Nobutora makes pilgrimage to Zenko Temple in Shinano (3)	Mori Motonari succeeds
5	1525	Nobutora fights Hojo Ujitsuna and Imagawa Ujichika (5)	
6	1526	Marries Matsu, daughter of Uesugi Tomooki, age 14 (13)	Imagawa Ujichika of Suruga dies, Ujiteru succeeds
Kyoroku 3	1530		Nagao Kagetora (Uesugi Kenshin) born
Tenbun 2	1533	Marries Matsu, daughter of Uesugi Tomooki, age 14 (13)	
3	1534	Matsu conceives but passes away Koko the maid is made his concubine (14)	
5	1536	Comes of age and takes the name Harunobu Takes the daughter of Sanjo Kinyori as his wife	Kipposhi (Oda Nobunaga) born
6	1537	First battle at Unnokuchi Castle in Saku (16)	Imagawa Ujiteru dies, his brother Yoshimoto succeeds
7	1538	Nobutora's daughter married to Imagawa Yoshimoto (17)	Uesugi Tomooki dies Tomosada succeeds
9	1540	Eldest son, Yoshinobu, is born (18)	Suwa Yorimitsu dies grandson Yoreshige succeeds
10	1541	Nobutora's daughter Nene (Harunobu's sister age 12) marries Suwa Yoreshige (20)	Epidemic breaks out
		Exiles father to Suruga and becomes independent Begins constructing Shingen Embankment (21)	Hojo Ujitsuna dies, son Ujiyasu succeeds

Tenbun 11	1542	Harunobu besieges Suwa Yorishige in Uehara Castle. Yorishige commits suicide in Toko Temple. Takes Nezu Motonao's daughter Satomi as concubine (22)	Takechiyo (Tokugawa Ieyasu) born
12	1543	Harunobu's sister and Suwa Yorishige's wife dies. Harunobu besieges Oi Sadataka's Nagakubo Castle. Takes Koihime of the Suwa Clan as concubine (23)	Portuguese merchant ships land at Tanegashima, introduce rifles
14	1545	Captures Takato Yoritsugu of Ina. Triple alliance of Imagawa/Hojo/Uesugi (25)	
15	1546	Koihime gives birth to Katsuyori Excavation of Kurokawa Gold Mine in Inner Chichibu (26)	Ashikaga Yoshiteru becomes thirteenth Shogun
16	1547	Enactment of the 55 Articles of Kai Law. Battle with Uesugi Norimasa at Otahara at the foot of Mt. Asama. Captures Shiga Castle of Saku (27)	Saito Dosan of Mino battles the Oda Clan
17	1548	Defeat by Murakami Yoshikiyo at Uedahara, death of Itagaki Nobukata and Amari Torayasu (28)	Nagao Kagetora enters Kasugayama Castle
18	1549	Captures Kasugayama Castle in Saku District of Shinano (29)	Xavier spreads Catholicism
19	1550	Assaults Toishi Castle of Murakami Yoshikiyo, defeated (30)	
20	1551	Subordinate general Sanada Yukitaka takes Toishi Castle (31)	Oda Nobuhide dies, his son Nobunaga succeeds
21	1552	Eldest son Taro Yoshinobu marries Imagawa Yoshimoto's daughter Tsune (32)	
22	1553	Captures Murakami Yoshikiyo's Kazurao Castle First Battle of Kawanakajima in August (33)	
23	1554	Confronts Hojo Ujiyasu at Kariya River in Suruga. Triple alliance of Takeda/Imagawa /Hojo formed. Harunobu's daughter Tokihime marries into Hojo Clan (34)	
24	1555	Second Battle of Kawanakajima in July. Koihime dies at age 25 (35)	Matsudaira Takechiyo comes of age, takes the name Motonobu
Koji 3	1557	Third Battle of Kawanakajima in August (37)	
Eiroku 2	1559	Shaves hair at Chozen Temple, takes the name Shingen (39)	Oda Nobunaga and Nagao Kagetora enter Kyoto
3	1560	Builds Kaizu Castle, puts Kenshin in check. Shingen Embankment is completed (40)	Nobunaga slays Imagawa Yoshimoto at Okehazama
		Continued in the next volume	

Important Characters In This Volume

◉Kai

Lady Sanjo
├——— Koihime
Takeda Shingen
├——— Shiro Katsuyori
Taro Yoshinobu

Yamamoto Kansuke —— Kan'ichi (Tetsui)

Gishu (Chozen Temple)

◉Suruga

Imagawa Yoshimoto – Imagawa Ujizane

Gon'ami (Chaplain)

Kuzuyama Nobusata

◉Owari

Oda Nobunaga

Yanada Masatsuna Asahina Yasuyoshi

Tokugawa Ieyasu Mori Shinsuke

◉Retainers

Obu Saburobe Imai Hyobu (magistrate of gold mines)

Baba Munbu Okura Souemon

Kakuma Shichirobe Tanba Yajuro

Kasuga Danjo Momokawa Kazuemon

◉Peasants

Zen'emon Gonzo

◉Odawara

Hojo Ujiyasu

◉Echigo

Nagao Kagetora (Uesugi Masatora/Kenshin)

Kazama Kanbei

Naoe Sanetsuna

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CHAPTER 53